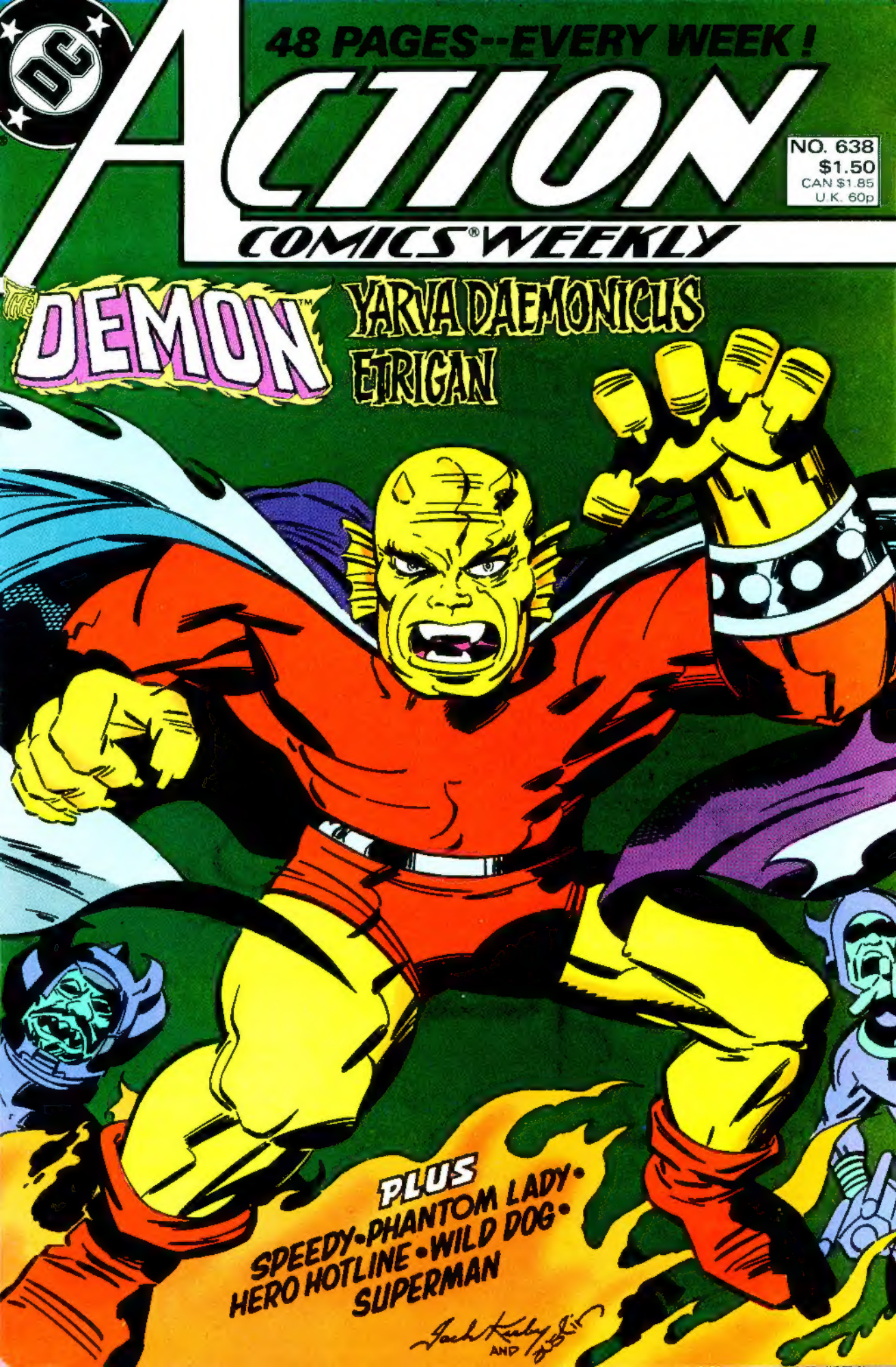
48 PAGES--EVERY WEEK!
ACTION
COMICS® WEEKLY
NO. 638
$1.50
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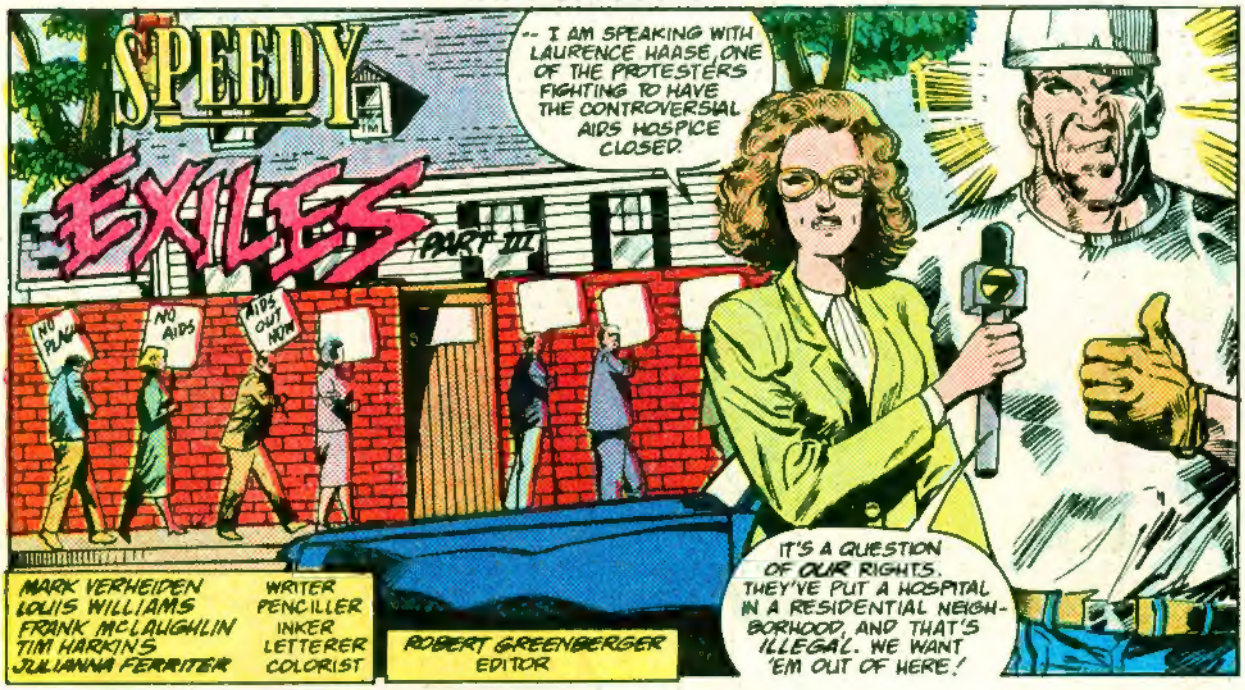
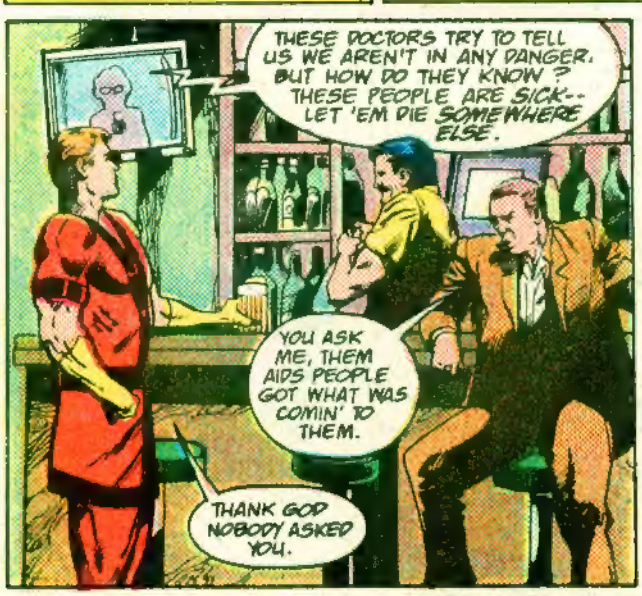
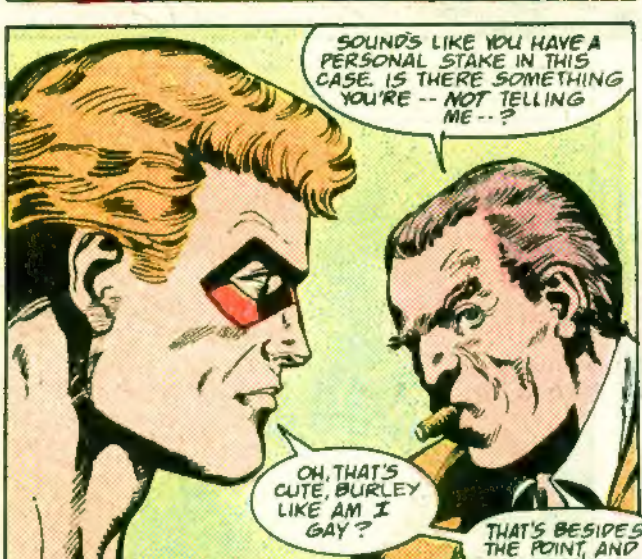
U.K. 60p
THE DEMON™
YARVA DAEMONICUS
ETRIGAN
PLUS
SPEEDY • PHANTOM LADY •
HERO HOTLINE • WILD DOG •
SUPERMAN
Jack Kirby AND


SPEEDY
EXILES
PART III
-- I AM SPEAKING WITH LAURENCE HAASE, ONE OF THE PROTESTERS FIGHTING TO HAVE THE CONTROVERSIAL AIDS HOSPICE CLOSED.
NO PLAGUE
NO AIDS
AIDS OUT NOW
IT'S A QUESTION OF OUR RIGHTS. THEY'VE PUT A HOSPITAL IN A RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD, AND THAT'S ILLEGAL. WE WANT 'EM OUT OF HERE!
MARK VERHEIDEN WRITER
LOUIS WILLIAMS PENCILLER
FRANK MCLAUGHLIN INKER
TIM HARKINS LETTERER
JULIANNA FERRITER COLORIST
ROBERT GREENBERGER EDITOR


THESE DOCTORS TRY TO TELL US WE AREN'T IN ANY DANGER. BUT HOW DO THEY KNOW? THESE PEOPLE ARE SICK-- LET 'EM DIE SOMEWHERE ELSE.
YOU ASK ME, THEM AIDS PEOPLE GOT WHAT WAS COMIN' TO THEM.
THANK GOD NOBODY ASKED YOU.

WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, KID? SO YOUR MISSING PERSON HAS AIDS-- NOTHING'S CHANGED. A JOB IS JUST A JOB.
YEAH-- AND ALL OF A SUDDEN IT MAKES SENSE.
RETTICK TOOK AWAY LOSSNER'S ACCOUNTS SO HE'D HAVE TO QUIT. THOSE TWO GOONS AT HIS APARTMENT BUILDING HARASSED HIM UNTIL HE HAD TO LEAVE.


SOUNDS LIKE YOU HAVE A PERSONAL STAKE IN THIS CASE. IS THERE SOMETHING YOU'RE -- NOT TELLING ME --?
OH, THAT'S CUTE, BURLEY LIKE AM I GAY?
THAT'S BESIDES THE POINT, AND YOU KNOW IT.

BAD ENOUGH THE GUY CONTRACTS A FATAL DISEASE. TO SUFFER DISCRIMINATION AND UGLY INSINUATIONS ON TOP OF IT--
I'M LEAVING -- I NEED SOME AIR.
HEY, WAIT A MINUTE -- WHO SAID I WAS BUYING?
G 4568

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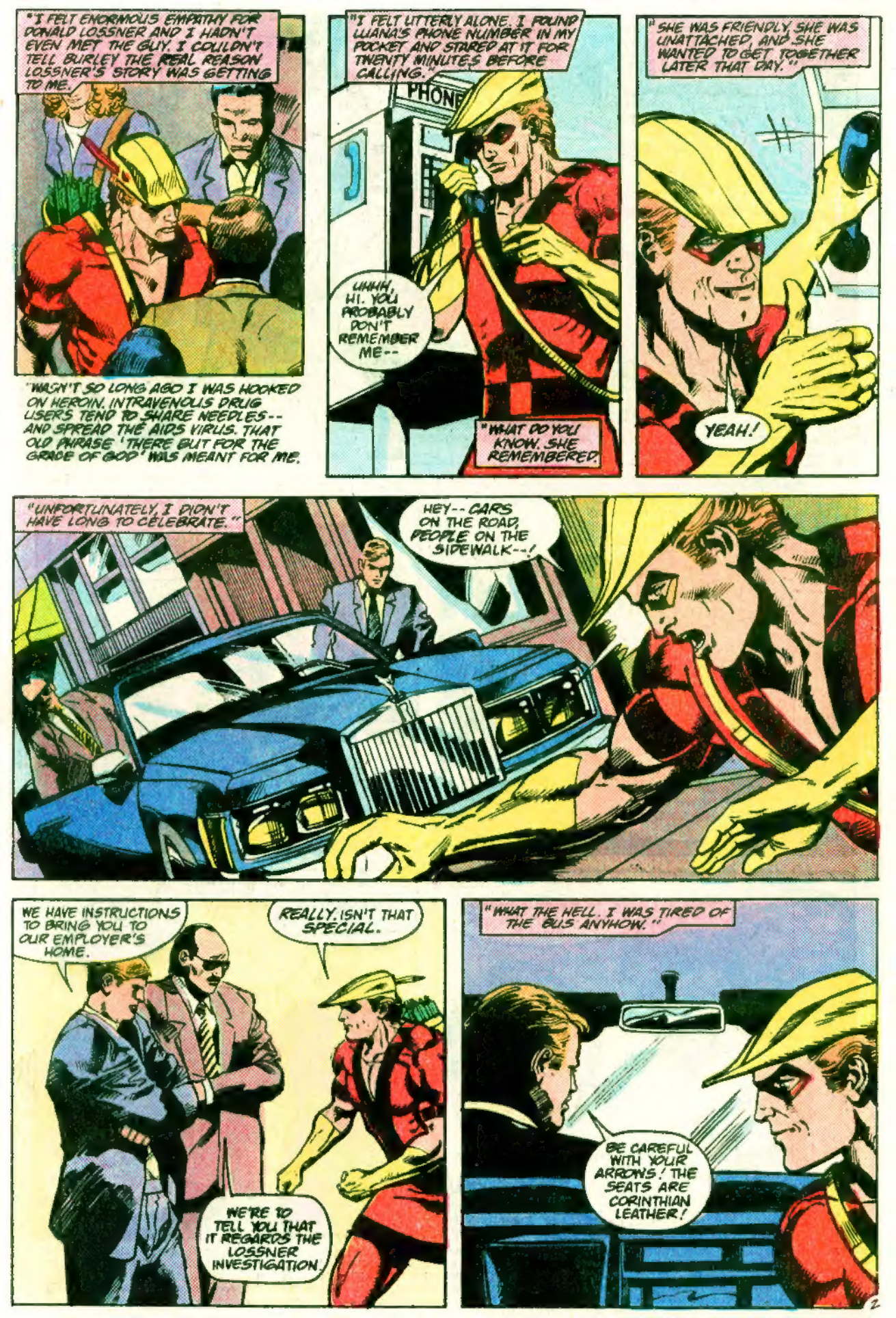
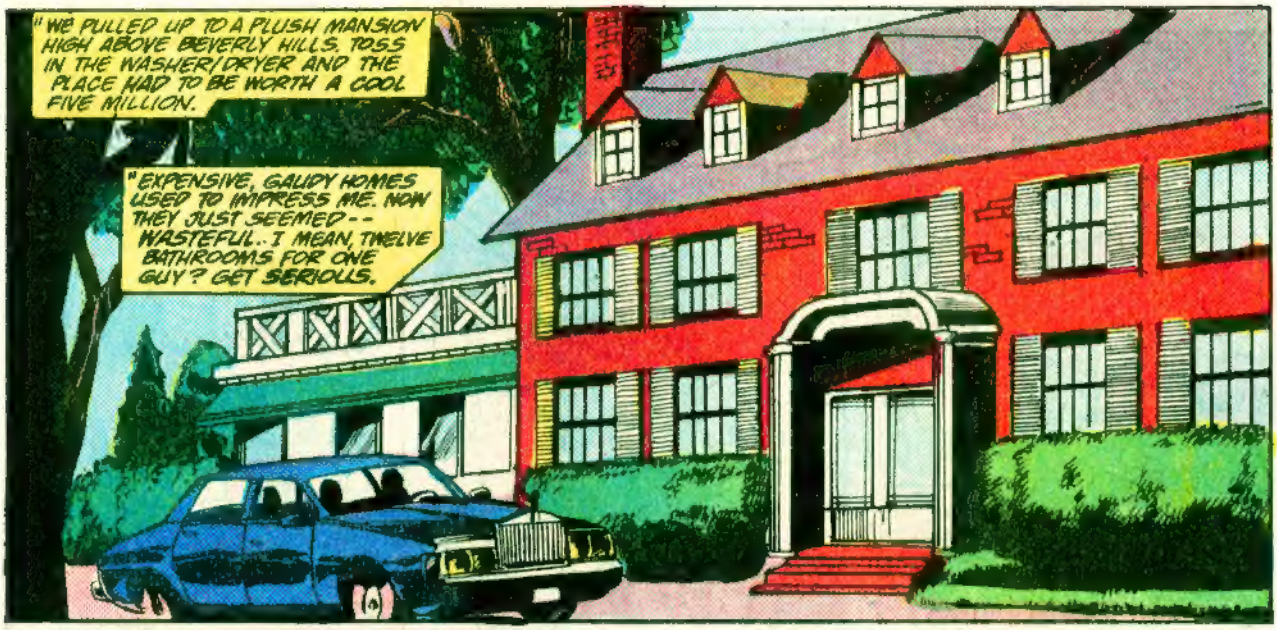
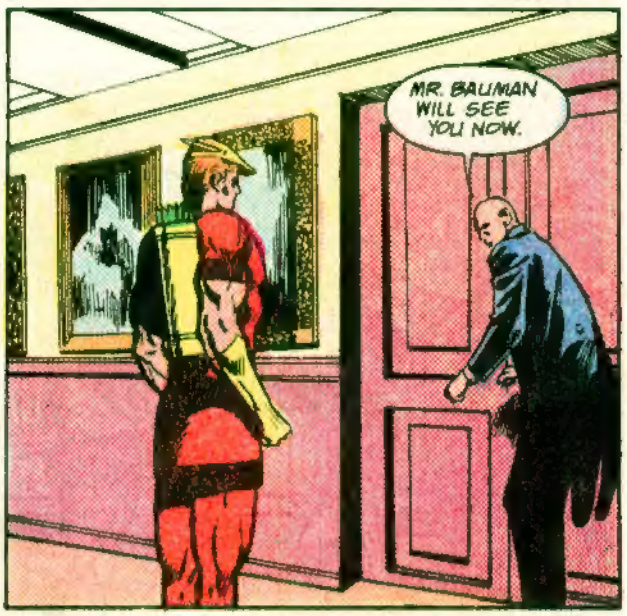
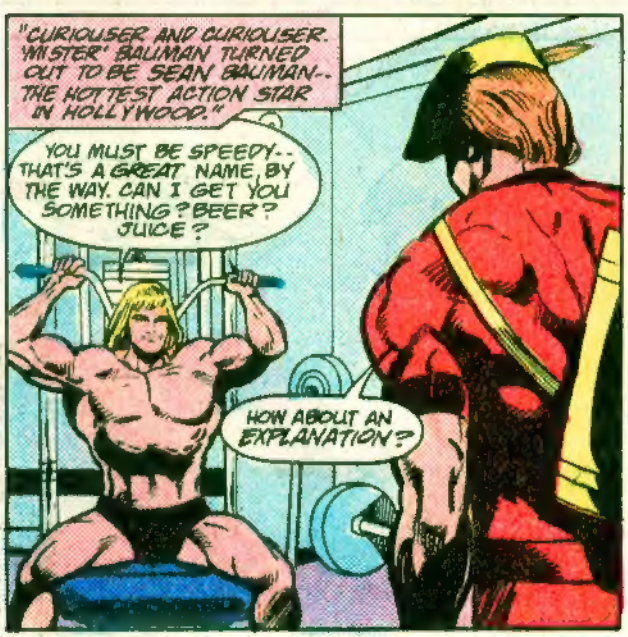

"I FELT ENORMOUS EMPATHY FOR DONALD LOSSNER AND I HADN'T EVEN MET THE GUY. I COULDN'T TELL BURLEY THE REAL REASON LOSSNER'S STORY WAS GETTING TO ME.
"I FELT UTTERLY ALONE. I FOUND LUANA'S PHONE NUMBER IN MY POCKET AND STARED AT IT FOR TWENTY MINUTES BEFORE CALLING."
PHONE
UHHH, HI. YOU PROBABLY DON'T REMEMBER ME--
"WHAT DO YOU KNOW. SHE REMEMBERED.
"SHE WAS FRIENDLY. SHE WAS UNATTACHED, AND SHE WANTED TO GET TOGETHER LATER THAT DAY."
YEAH!
"WASN'T SO LONG AGO I WAS HOOKED ON HEROIN. INTRAVENOUS DRUG USERS TEND TO SHARE NEEDLES-- AND SPREAD THE AIDS VIRUS. THAT OLD PHRASE 'THERE BUT FOR THE GRACE OF GOD' WAS MEANT FOR ME.
"UNFORTUNATELY, I DIDN'T HAVE LONG TO CELEBRATE."
HEY-- CARS ON THE ROAD, PEOPLE ON THE SIDEWALK--!
WE HAVE INSTRUCTIONS TO BRING YOU TO OUR EMPLOYER'S HOME.
REALLY. ISN'T THAT SPECIAL.
WE'RE TO TELL YOU THAT IT REGARDS THE LOSSNER INVESTIGATION.
"WHAT THE HELL. I WAS TIRED OF THE BUS ANYHOW."
BE CAREFUL WITH YOUR ARROWS! THE SEATS ARE CORINTHIAN LEATHER!

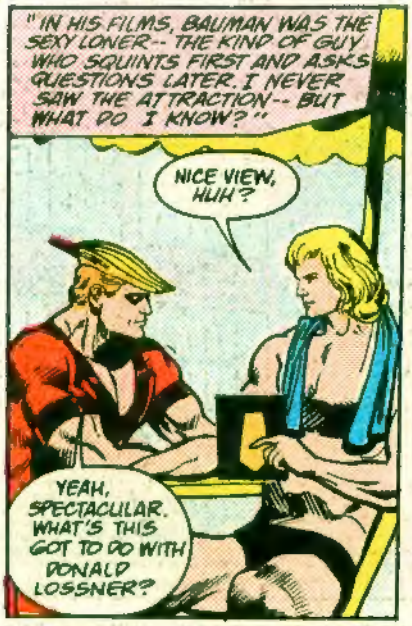

"WE PULLED UP TO A PLUSH MANSION HIGH ABOVE BEVERLY HILLS. TOSS IN THE WASHER/DRYER AND THE PLACE HAD TO BE WORTH A COOL FIVE MILLION.
"EXPENSIVE, GAUDY HOMES USED TO IMPRESS ME. NOW THEY JUST SEEMED-- WASTEFUL. I MEAN, TWELVE BATHROOMS FOR ONE GUY? GET SERIOUS.

"DONALD LOSSNER WAS AN INSURANCE SALESMAN. HE MADE OKAY MONEY. BUT NOTHING LIKE THIS. I COULDN'T FIGURE THE CONNECTION."
NICE PLACE. DO YOU RENT OR OWN?
VERY AMUSING.


MR. BAUMAN WILL SEE YOU NOW.

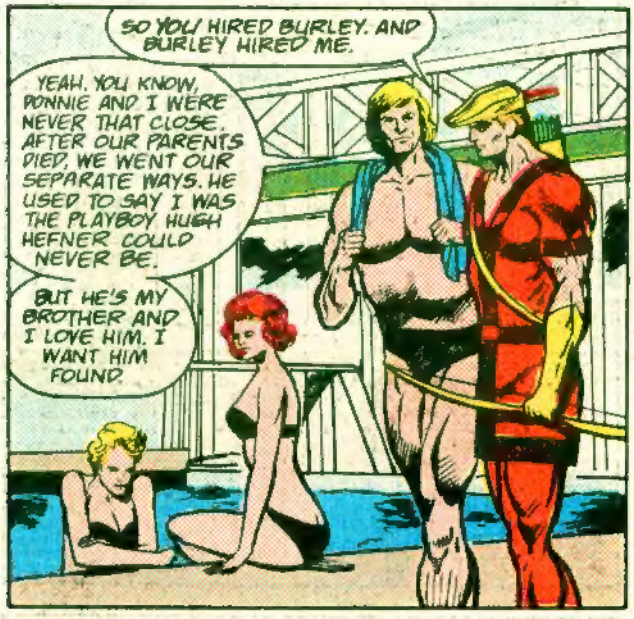

"CURIOUSER AND CURIOUSER. 'MISTER' BAUMAN TURNED OUT TO BE SEAN BAUMAN-- THE HOTTEST ACTION STAR IN HOLLYWOOD."
YOU MUST BE SPEEDY-- THAT'S A GREAT NAME, BY THE WAY. CAN I GET YOU SOMETHING? BEER? JUICE?
HOW ABOUT AN EXPLANATION?

"BAUMAN HAD BEEN PLAYING MOVIE TOUGH GUYS SINCE THE EARLY '70'S. CRITICS HATED HIM, BUT THEN, CRITICS DON'T PAY THE MORTAGE-- ESPECIALLY IN BEVERLY HILLS."
YOU'RE PROBABLY TICKED OFF AT ALL THE MYSTERY-- HELL, I'D BE MAD, TOO.
C'MON, LET'S TALK OUT BY THE POOL.


"IN HIS FILMS, BAUMAN WAS THE SEXY LONER -- THE KIND OF GUY WHO SQUINTS FIRST AND ASKS QUESTIONS LATER. I NEVER SAW THE ATTRACTION -- BUT WHAT DO I KNOW?"
NICE VIEW, HUH?
YEAH, SPECTACULAR. WHAT'S THIS GOT TO DO WITH DONALD LOSSNER?

YOU'VE PROBABLY HEARD OF MOVIE ACTORS WHO CHANGED THEIR NAMES FOR THE SCREEN -- MARION MORRISON BECAME JOHN WAYNE, THAT SORT OF THING --
WELL, I'M PHILLIP LOSSNER.

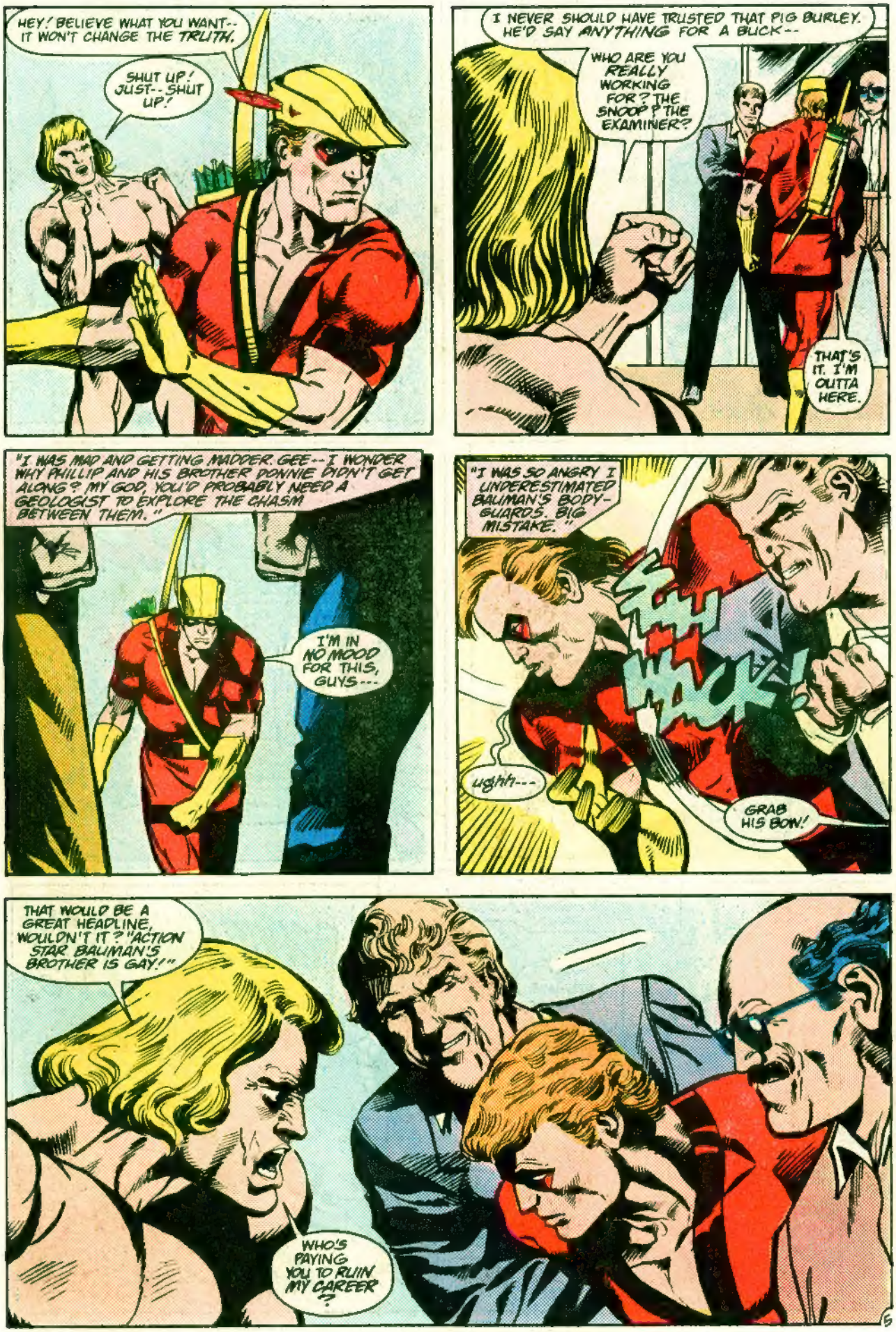
THAT'S ME AND DONNIE LAST FALL AT THE PREMIERE OF "RAW HEAT."
KEEP THE PICTURE -- IT MIGHT HELP YOU.

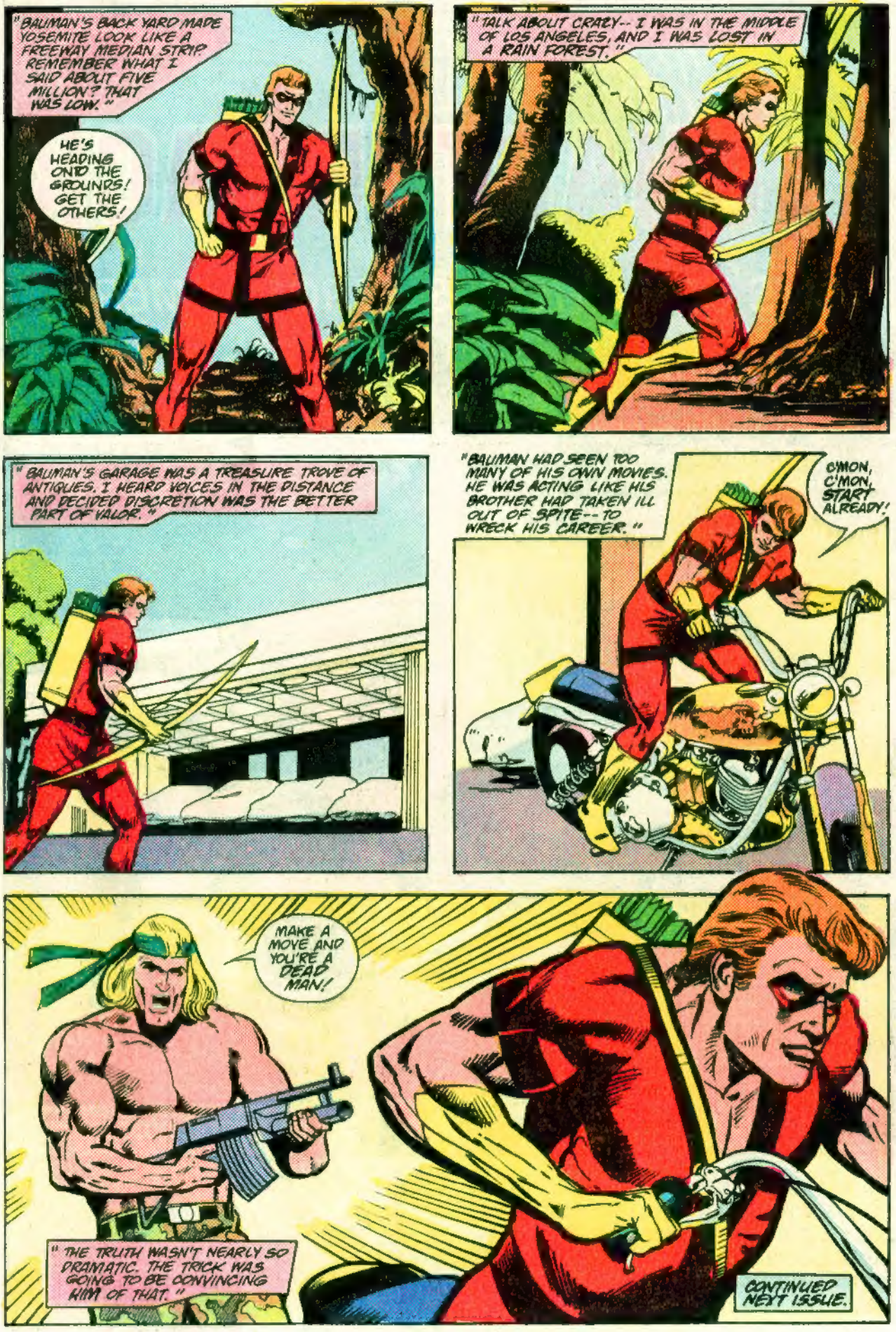

SO YOU HIRED BURLEY. AND BURLEY HIRED ME.
YEAH. YOU KNOW, DONNIE AND I WERE NEVER THAT CLOSE. AFTER OUR PARENTS DIED, WE WENT OUR SEPARATE WAYS. HE USED TO SAY I WAS THE PLAYBOY HUGH HEFNER COULD NEVER BE.
BUT HE'S MY BROTHER AND I LOVE HIM. I WANT HIM FOUND.

I THINK I KNOW WHY HE DROPPED OUT OF SIGHT.
I'M SORRY TO BE THE ONE TO TELL YOU, BAUMAN -- BUT YOUR BROTHER HAS AIDS.

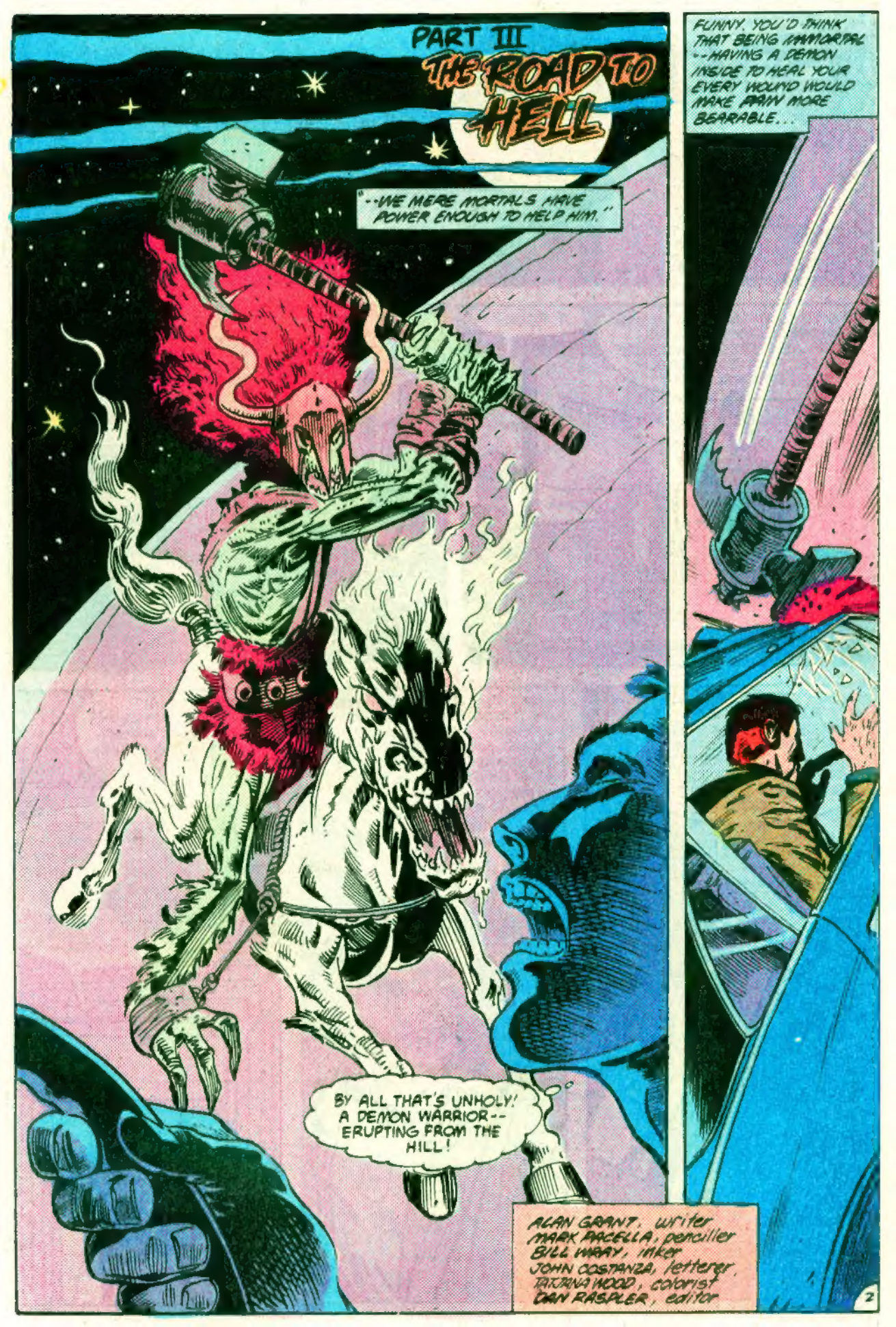
THAT 'GAY' DISEASE?
A LOT OF PEOPLE HAVE CONTRACTED IT -- BUT GAY MEN ARE CERTAINLY ONE OF THE HIGH RISK GROUPS -- AND THAT INCLUDES DONALD.

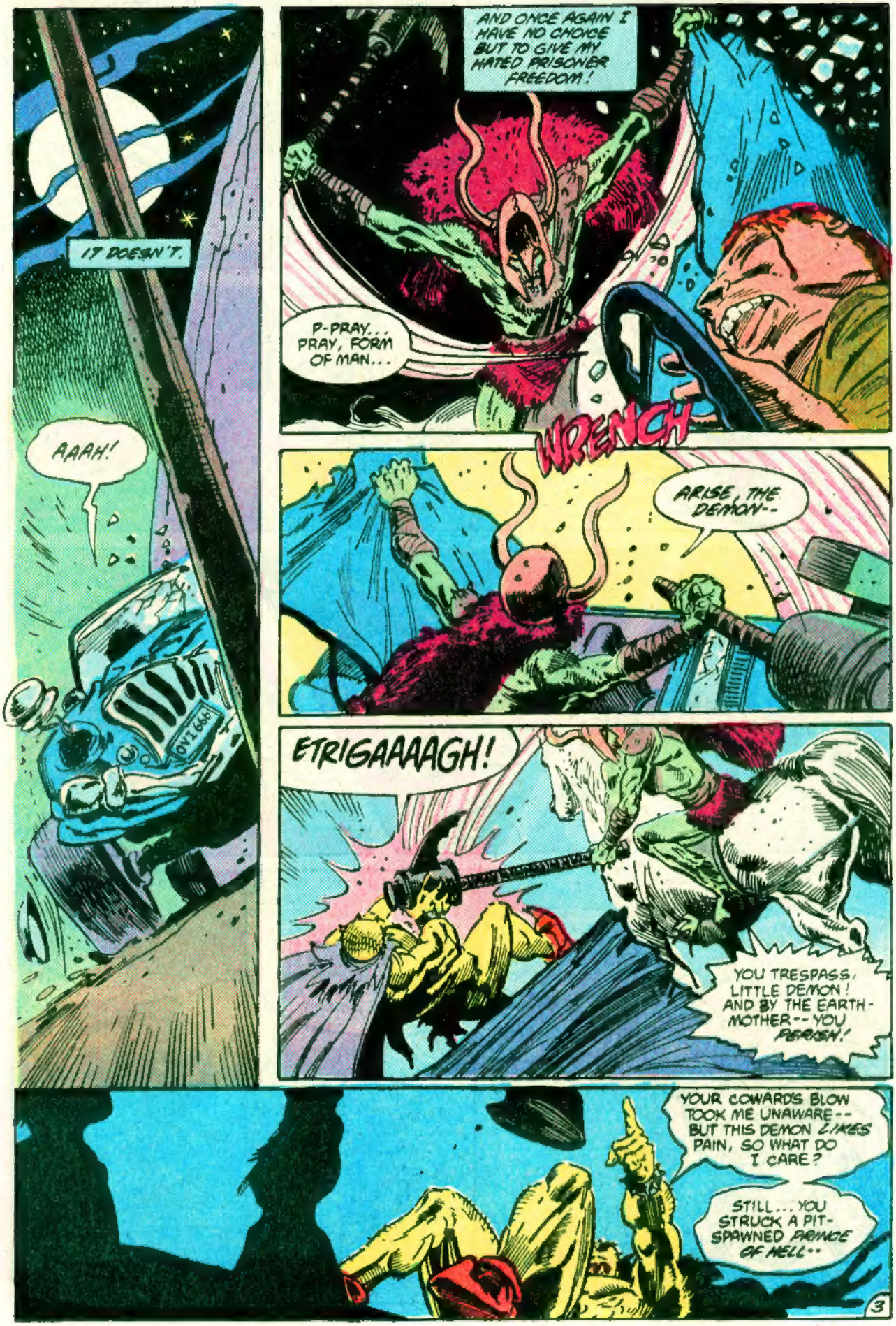
YOU'RE A LIAR.


HEY! BELIEVE WHAT YOU WANT-- IT WON'T CHANGE THE TRUTH.
SHUT UP! JUST-- SHUT UP!
I NEVER SHOULD HAVE TRUSTED THAT PIG BURLEY. HE'D SAY ANYTHING FOR A BUCK--
WHO ARE YOU REALLY WORKING FOR? THE SNOOP? THE EXAMINER?
THAT'S IT. I'M OUTTA HERE.
"I WAS MAD AND GETTING MADDER. GEE-- I WONDER WHY PHILLIP AND HIS BROTHER DONNIE DIDN'T GET ALONG? MY GOD, YOU'D PROBABLY NEED A GEOLOGIST TO EXPLORE THE CHASM BETWEEN THEM."
I'M IN NO MOOD FOR THIS, GUYS---
"I WAS SO ANGRY I UNDERESTIMATED BAUMAN'S BODY-GUARDS. BIG MISTAKE."
WHACK!
ughh---
GRAB HIS BOW!
THAT WOULD BE A GREAT HEADLINE, WOULDN'T IT? "ACTION STAR BAUMAN'S BROTHER IS GAY!"
WHO'S PAYING YOU TO RUIN MY CAREER?


"BAUMAN'S BACK YARD MADE YOSEMITE LOOK LIKE A FREEWAY MEDIAN STRIP. REMEMBER WHAT I SAID ABOUT FIVE MILLION? THAT WAS LOW."
HE'S HEADING ONTO THE GROUNDS! GET THE OTHERS!
"TALK ABOUT CRAZY-- I WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF LOS ANGELES, AND I WAS LOST IN A RAIN FOREST."
"BAUMAN'S GARAGE WAS A TREASURE TROVE OF ANTIQUES. I HEARD VOICES IN THE DISTANCE AND DECIDED DISCRETION WAS THE BETTER PART OF VALOR."
"BAUMAN HAD SEEN TOO MANY OF HIS OWN MOVIES. HE WAS ACTING LIKE HIS BROTHER HAD TAKEN ILL OUT OF SPITE-- TO WRECK HIS CAREER."
C'MON, C'MON, START ALREADY!
MAKE A MOVE AND YOU'RE A DEAD MAN!
"THE TRUTH WASN'T NEARLY SO DRAMATIC. THE TRICK WAS GOING TO BE CONVINCING HIM OF THAT."
CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE.

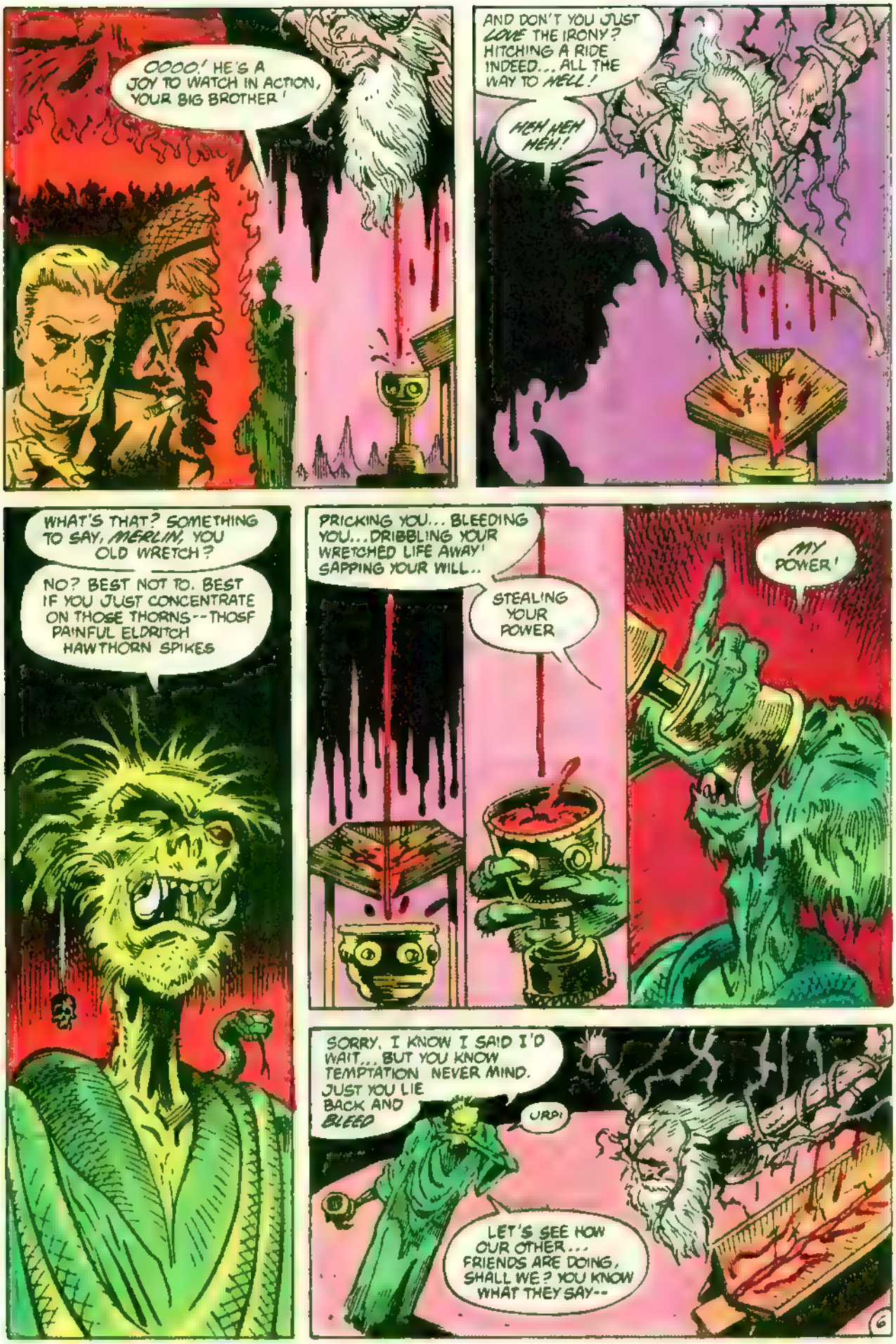
JACK KIRBY'S
THE DEMON
GOTHAM AIRPORT
JASON'S GOING TO BE FURIOUS, GLENDA!
TAXI
HE SAID HE WOULD HANDLE THIS MORGAN LE FAY BUSINESS ALONE. HE EXPRESSLY FORBADE US TO GET INVOLVED! PLEASE-- TRY TO BE RATIONAL ABOUT THIS!
A ROCK?
YOU'RE TAKING A ROCK TO ENGLAND?
MY... UH, MY PET. GUESS I NEVER GREW OUT OF THE OLD CRAZE!
THERE'S NO POINT TRYING TO BE RATIONAL, RANDU!
RATIONALITY AND DEMONS ARE AT OPPOSITE ENDS OF THE SPECTRUM. THEY HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH EACH OTHER! ALL I KNOW IS WHAT I FEEL--
G-4372
--AND I FEEL THAT JASON NEEDS ME. ALL THOSE YEARS WITH ETRIGAN GNAWING AWAY INSIDE HIM, POISONING HIS THOUGHTS-- HIS DEEDS-- HIS VERY EXISTENCE! HE NEEDS TO KNOW THAT SOMEONE CARES ENOUGH TO EVEN TRY TO HELP HIM...
I CAN BE THAT SOMEONE, RANDU.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO COME. AFTER THE WAY BELIAL KILLED HARRY, I WOULDN'T BLAME YOU FOR KEEPING OUT OF IT.
MY SENTIMENTS EXACTLY! UNFORTUNATELY, JASON IS MY FRIEND. MORE AND MORE, I FEEL MY FATE IS SOMEHOW BOUND TO HIS. I ONLY HOPE THAT, IF HE IS IN DANGER--

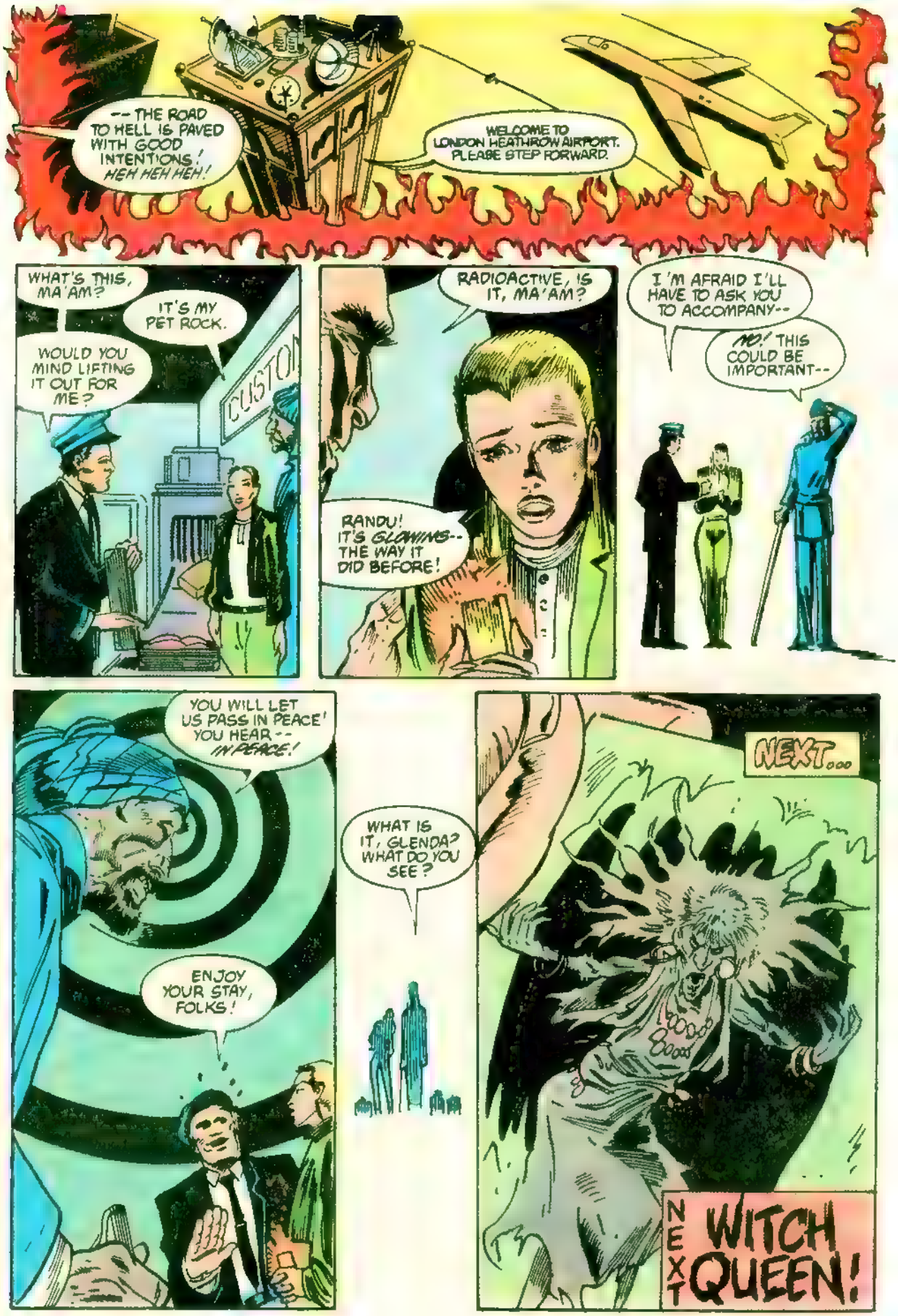

PART III
THE ROAD TO HELL
"--WE MERE MORTALS HAVE POWER ENOUGH TO HELP HIM."
BY ALL THAT'S UNHOLY! A DEMON WARRIOR-- ERUPTING FROM THE HILL!
FUNNY, YOU'D THINK THAT BEING IMMORTAL --HAVING A DEMON INSIDE TO HEAL YOUR EVERY WOUND WOULD MAKE PAIN MORE BEARABLE...
ALAN GRANT, writer
MARK PACELLA, penciller
BILL WRAY, inker
JOHN COSTANZA, letterer
TATJANA WOOD, colorist
DAN RASPLER, editor
2

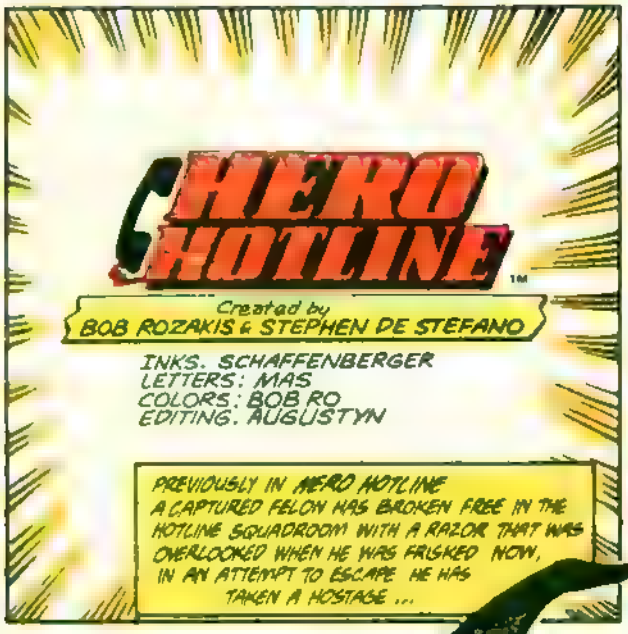

AND ONCE AGAIN I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO GIVE MY HATED PRISONER FREEDOM!
IT DOESN'T.
P-PRAY... PRAY, FORM OF MAN...
AAAH!
WRENCH
ARISE, THE DEMON--
ETRIGAAAAGH!
YOU TRESPASS, LITTLE DEMON! AND BY THE EARTH-MOTHER--YOU PERISH!
YOUR COWARD'S BLOW TOOK ME UNAWARE-- BUT THIS DEMON LIKES PAIN, SO WHAT DO I CARE?
STILL... YOU STRUCK A PIT-SPAWNED PRINCE OF HELL--
3

AND ANSWER ME WELL!
A HAMMER YOU WIELDED-- YOUR BLOW MADE ME CRY...
YOU'LL ANSWER FOR THAT--
LET'S SEE IF YOU'RE SHIELDED--
OR IF YOUR BONES FRY!
HA! YOUR EARTH-POWER IS WEAK! YOUR BONES SPLIT AND CRACK!
BUT FEAR NOT, POOR SPIRIT. YOUR EARTH HAS THEM BACK!
MAHAHAHAHA!
HIS MASTER'S WILL BROKEN, THE STEED FADES AND DIES. PITY! A FINE MEAL HE'D MAKE, A BEAST OF HIS SIZE! NO TIME NOW FOR FOOD THEY SOUGHT TO DELAY US-- BY CHANCE NOT, I FEAR BUT SOME SCHEME OF CHAOS.
WHAT SAY YOU, BLOOD?
UNNH..

EH? SPEAK UP, JAILER! YOUR SKIN-FACE IS PALE-- YOUR YELLOW HEART PALER! YOU HATE ME, AND BLAME ME FOR ALL OF YOUR PAIN. BUT IS TRUTH CLOSER HOME? ARE WE TWO THE SAME?
A THOUSAND YEARS I NEVER SAW YOUR FACE. STRANGE... BUT NOW MERLIN'S GONE, THE RULES HAVE ALL CHANGED. YOU'RE HARDLY ADONIS-- A STICK IN THE MUD. BUT THERE'S SOMETHING I LIKE ABOUT YOU, JASON...
BLOOD!
AT TINTAGEL AWAITS LE FAY. MAYHAP THERE I'LL HAVE MY PLAY. TILL THEN-- RISE ONCE MORE THE FORM OF MAN...
AND GONE THE DEMON, ETRIGAN!
SO HE HEALS ME WITH HIS FIERY TOUCH-- AND THE GAME GOES EVER ON.
GOING ANYWHERE NEAR TINTAGEL?
5

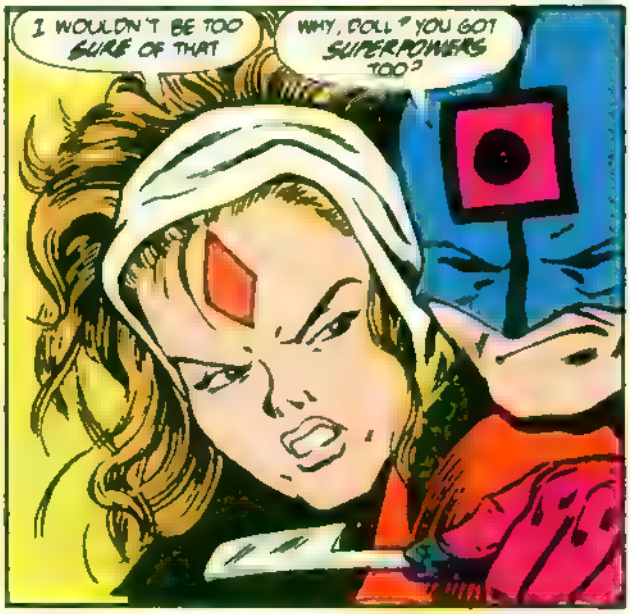

OOOO! HE'S A JOY TO WATCH IN ACTION, YOUR BIG BROTHER!
AND DON'T YOU JUST LOVE THE IRONY? HITCHING A RIDE INDEED... ALL THE WAY TO HELL!
HEH HEH HEH!
WHAT'S THAT? SOMETHING TO SAY, MERLIN, YOU OLD WRETCH?
NO? BEST NOT TO. BEST IF YOU JUST CONCENTRATE ON THOSE THORNS--THOSE PAINFUL ELDRITCH HAWTHORN SPIKES
PRICKING YOU... BLEEDING YOU...DRIBBLING YOUR WRETCHED LIFE AWAY! SAPPING YOUR WILL..
STEALING YOUR POWER
MY POWER!
SORRY, I KNOW I SAID I'D WAIT... BUT YOU KNOW TEMPTATION NEVER MIND. JUST YOU LIE BACK AND BLEED
URP!
LET'S SEE HOW OUR OTHER... FRIENDS ARE DOING, SHALL WE? YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY--
6


-- THE ROAD TO HELL IS PAVED WITH GOOD INTENTIONS, HEH HEH HEH!
WELCOME TO LONDON HEATHROW AIRPORT. PLEASE STEP FORWARD.
WHAT'S THIS, MA'AM?
IT'S MY PET ROCK.
WOULD YOU MIND LIFTING IT OUT FOR ME?
CUSTOM
RADIOACTIVE, IS IT, MA'AM?
RANDU! IT'S GLOWING-- THE WAY IT DID BEFORE!
I'M AFRAID I'LL HAVE TO ASK YOU TO ACCOMPANY--
NO! THIS COULD BE IMPORTANT--
YOU WILL LET US PASS IN PEACE! YOU HEAR-- IN PEACE!
ENJOY YOUR STAY, FOLKS!
WHAT IS IT, GLENDA? WHAT DO YOU SEE?
NEXT...
Boood Boood
NEXT WITCH QUEEN!


HERO HOTLINE
Created by
BOB ROZAKIS & STEPHEN DE STEFANO
INKS. SCHAFFENBERGER
LETTERS: MAS
COLORS: BOB RO
EDITING. AUGUSTYN
PREVIOUSLY IN HERO HOTLINE
A CAPTURED FELON HAS BROKEN FREE IN THE HOTLINE SQUADROOM WITH A RAZOR THAT WAS OVERLOOKED WHEN HE WAS FRISKED NOW, IN AN ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE HE HAS TAKEN A HOSTAGE ...

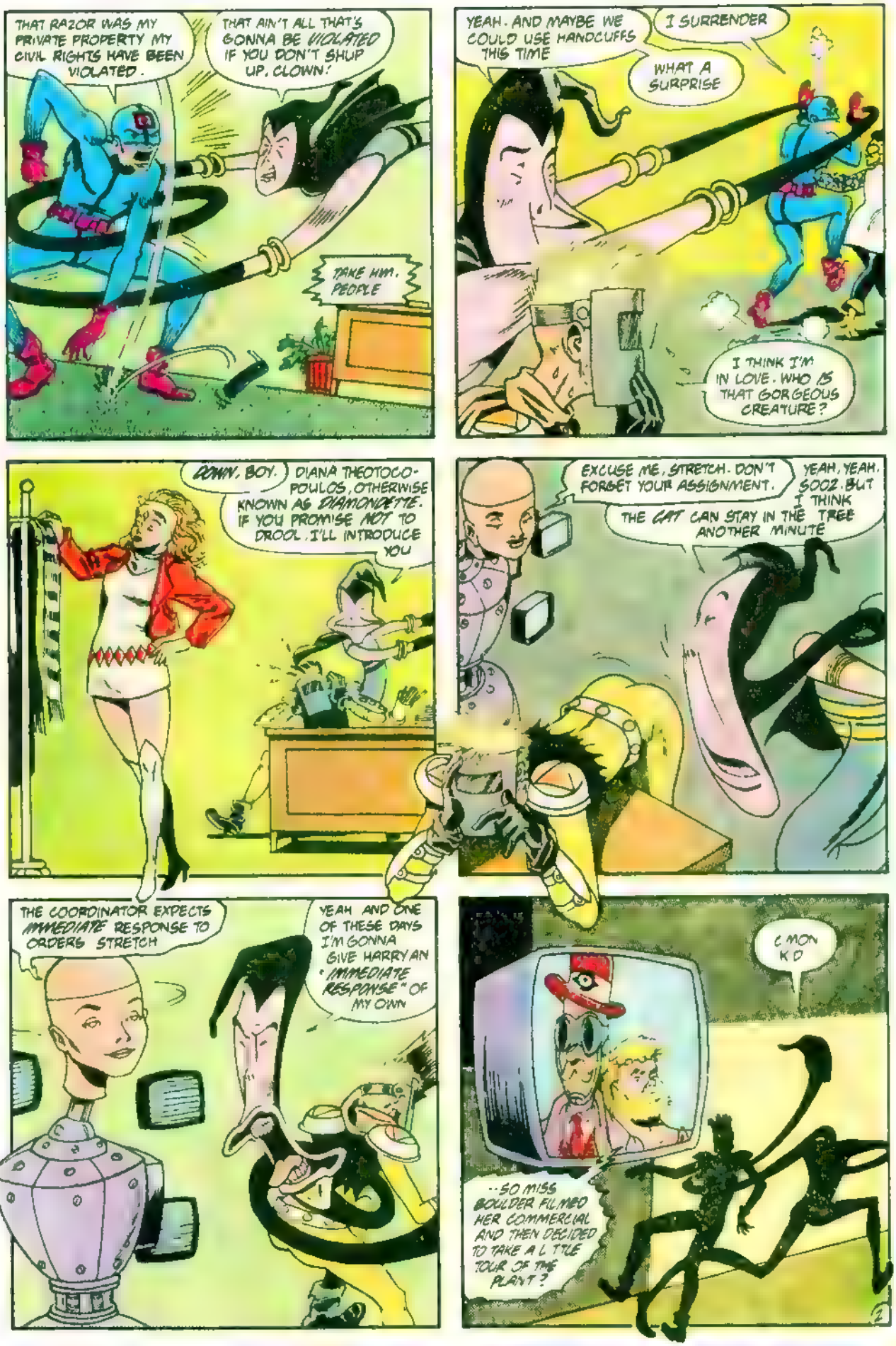
THAT'S IT. ALL YOU HEROES JUST STAND THERE LIKE STATUE-MAN!

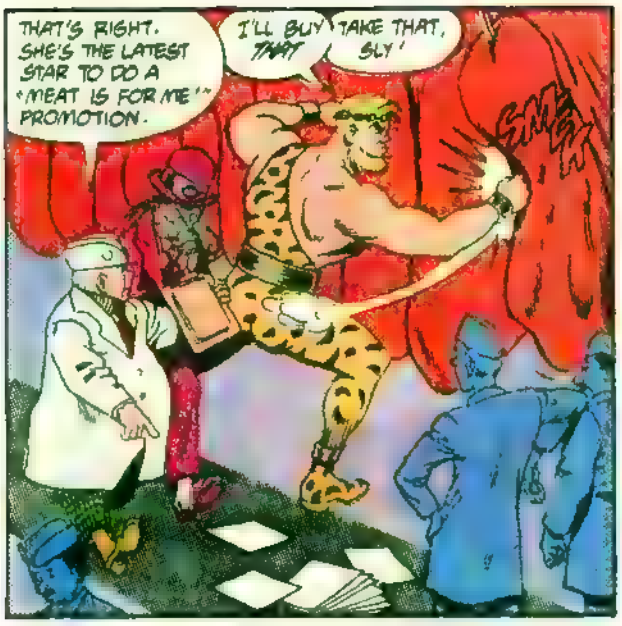
OTHERWISE, THIS BABE'S GONNA GET HER FIRST SHAVE... REAL CLOSE.

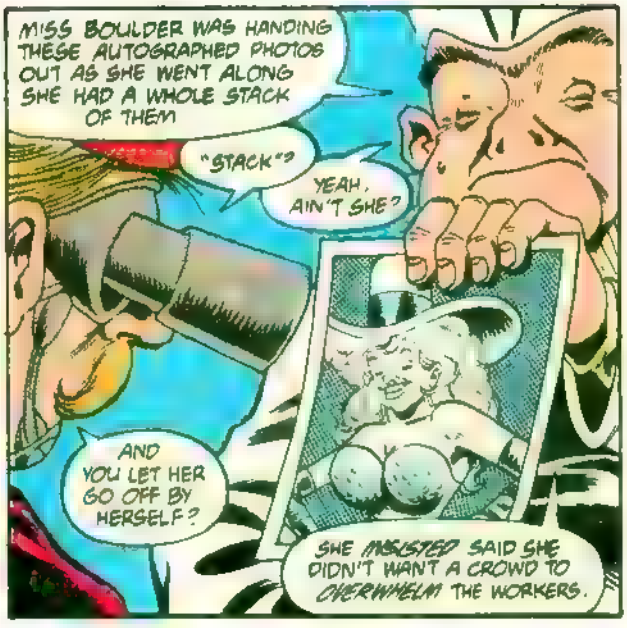

I WOULDN'T BE TOO SURE OF THAT
WHY, DOLL" YOU GOT SUPERPOWERS TOO?

EXACTLY!
HA-CHAA!
WHAT THE--?!

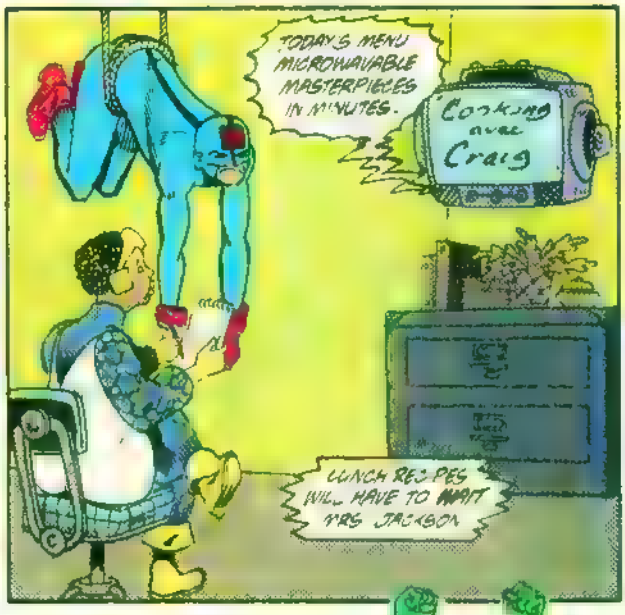
WHAT D YOU DO TO MY BLADE"
DIAMOND HARD FINGERS ARE A GIRL'S BEST FRIEND!

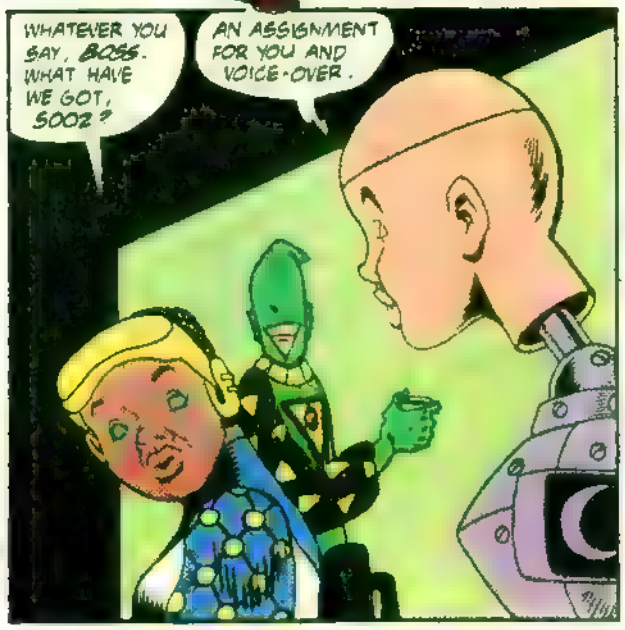

THAT RAZOR WAS MY PRIVATE PROPERTY MY CIVIL RIGHTS HAVE BEEN VIOLATED.
THAT AIN'T ALL THAT'S GONNA BE VIOLATED IF YOU DON'T SHUP UP, CLOWN!
TAKE HIM, PEOPLE
YEAH. AND MAYBE WE COULD USE HANDCUFFS THIS TIME
I SURRENDER
WHAT A SURPRISE
I THINK I'M IN LOVE. WHO IS THAT GORGEOUS CREATURE?
DOWN, BOY. DIANA THEOTOCOPOULOS, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS DIAMONDETTE. IF YOU PROMISE NOT TO DROOL I'LL INTRODUCE YOU
EXCUSE ME, STRETCH. DON'T FORGET YOUR ASSIGNMENT.
YEAH, YEAH. SOOZ. BUT I THINK THE CAT CAN STAY IN THE TREE ANOTHER MINUTE
THE COORDINATOR EXPECTS IMMEDIATE RESPONSE TO ORDERS STRETCH
YEAH AND ONE OF THESE DAYS I'M GONNA GIVE HARRY AN "IMMEDIATE RESPONSE" OF MY OWN
C'MON K'D
..SO MISS BOULDER FILMED HER COMMERCIAL AND THEN DECIDED TO TAKE A LITTLE TOUR OF THE PLANT?

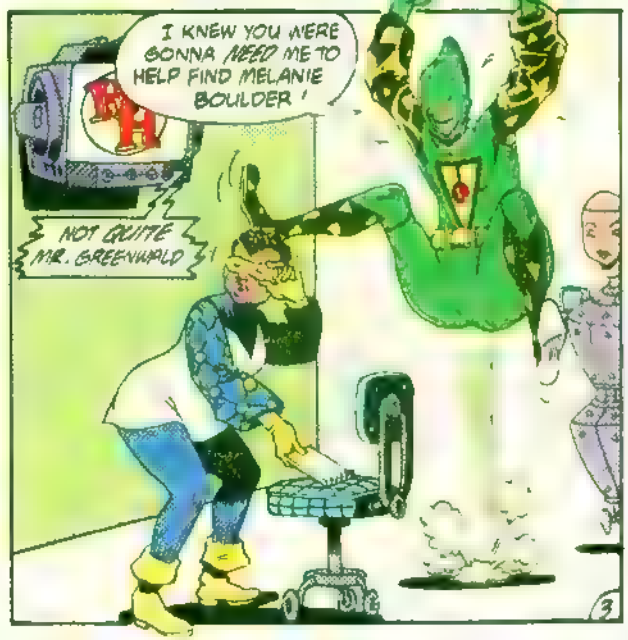

THAT'S RIGHT. SHE'S THE LATEST STAR TO DO A "MEAT IS FOR ME" PROMOTION.
I'LL BUY THAT
TAKE THAT, SLY!
SMACK

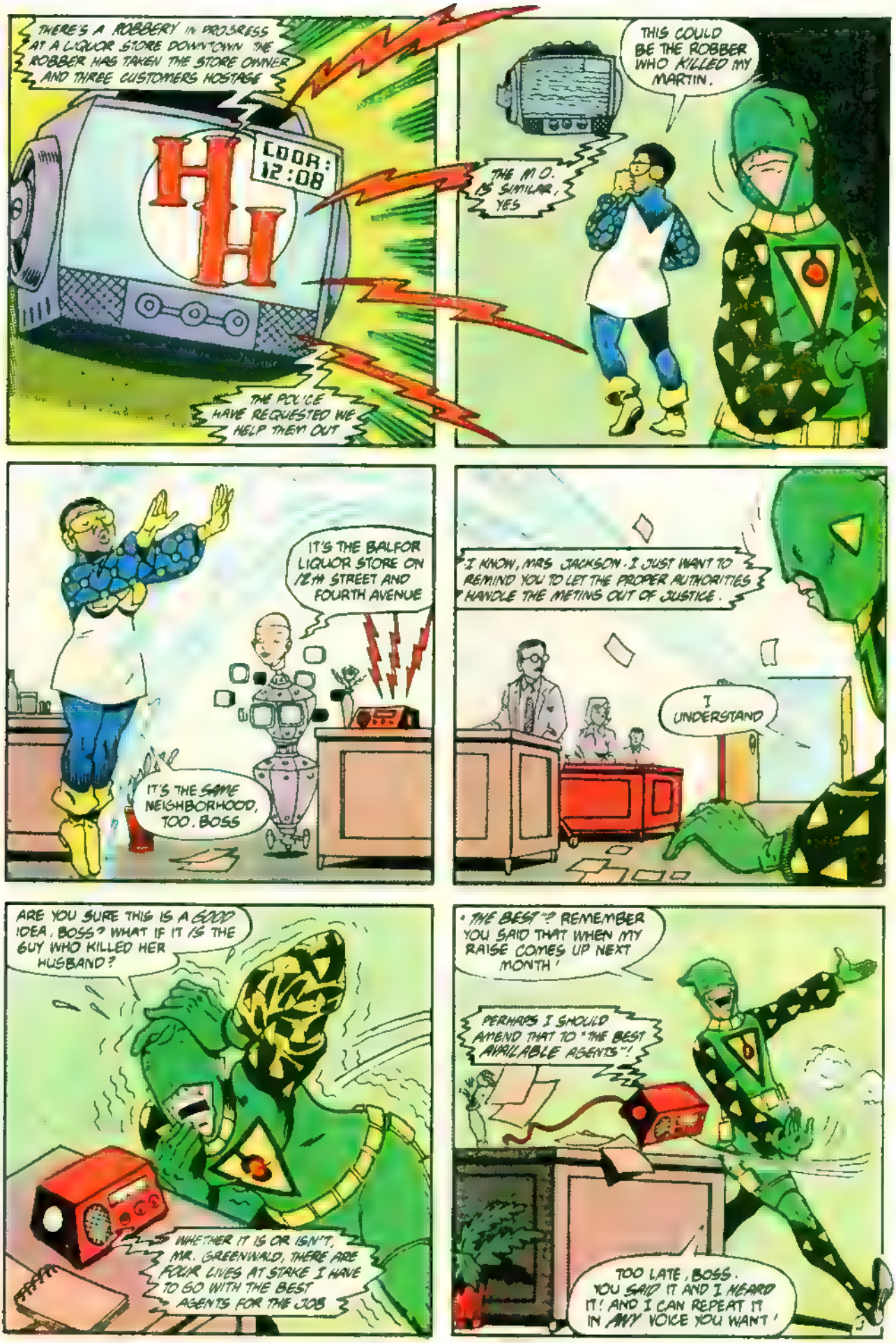

MISS BOULDER WAS HANDING THESE AUTOGRAPHED PHOTOS OUT AS SHE WENT ALONG SHE HAD A WHOLE STACK OF THEM
"STACK"?
YEAH, AIN'T SHE?
AND YOU LET HER GO OFF BY HERSELF?
SHE INSISTED SAID SHE DIDN'T WANT A CROWD TO OVERWHELM THE WORKERS.

MISTER, SHE CAN DO THAT ALL BY HERSELF
WELL, I GUESS THE ONLY THING WE CAN DO IS FOLLOW HER PATH.
TURN ON THOSE LENSES, LES.

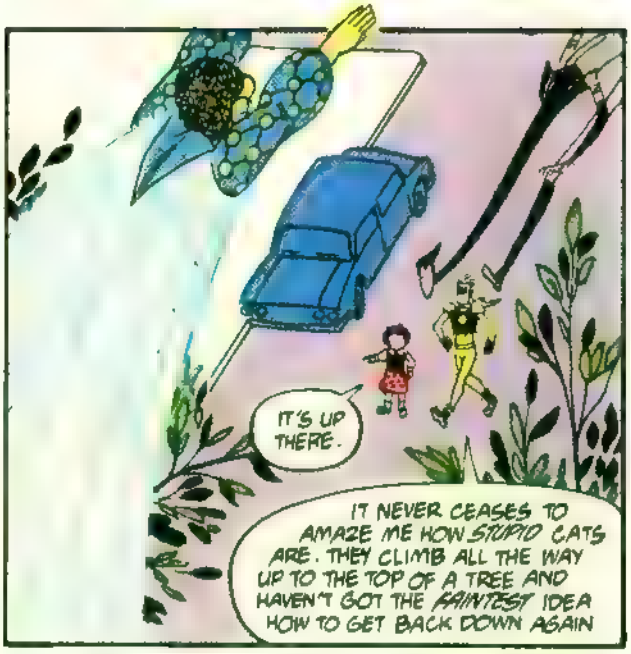

TODAY'S MENU MICROWAVABLE MASTERPIECES IN MINUTES.
Cooking over Craig
LUNCH RECIPES WILL HAVE TO WAIT MRS JACKSON


WHATEVER YOU SAY, BOSS. WHAT HAVE WE GOT, SOOZ?
AN ASSIGNMENT FOR YOU AND VOICE-OVER.


I KNEW YOU WERE GONNA NEED ME TO HELP FIND MELANIE BOULDER!
NOT QUITE MR. GREENWALD!
3


THERE'S A ROBBERY IN PROGRESS AT A LIQUOR STORE DOWNTOWN. THE ROBBER HAS TAKEN THE STORE OWNER AND THREE CUSTOMERS HOSTAGE
HH
LOOR: 12:08
THE POLICE HAVE REQUESTED WE HELP THEM OUT
THIS COULD BE THE ROBBER WHO KILLED MY MARTIN.
THE M.O. IS SIMILAR, YES
IT'S THE BALFOR LIQUOR STORE ON 12TH STREET AND FOURTH AVENUE
IT'S THE SAME NEIGHBORHOOD, TOO, BOSS
I KNOW, MRS JACKSON. I JUST WANT TO REMIND YOU TO LET THE PROPER AUTHORITIES HANDLE THE METING OUT OF JUSTICE.
I UNDERSTAND
ARE YOU SURE THIS IS A GOOD IDEA, BOSS? WHAT IF IT IS THE GUY WHO KILLED HER HUSBAND?
WHETHER IT IS OR ISN'T, MR. GREENWALD, THERE ARE FOUR LIVES AT STAKE I HAVE TO GO WITH THE BEST AGENTS FOR THE JOB
"THE BEST"? REMEMBER YOU SAID THAT WHEN MY RAISE COMES UP NEXT MONTH!
PERHAPS I SHOULD AMEND THAT TO "THE BEST AVAILABLE AGENTS"!
TOO LATE, BOSS. YOU SAID IT AND I HEARD IT! AND I CAN REPEAT IT IN ANY VOICE YOU WANT!

BELLE--WAIT FOR ME! COME ON--YOU KNOW I CAN'T FLY!


IT'S UP THERE.
IT NEVER CEASES TO AMAZE ME HOW STUPID CATS ARE. THEY CLIMB ALL THE WAY UP TO THE TOP OF A TREE AND HAVEN'T GOT THE FAINTEST IDEA HOW TO GET BACK DOWN AGAIN

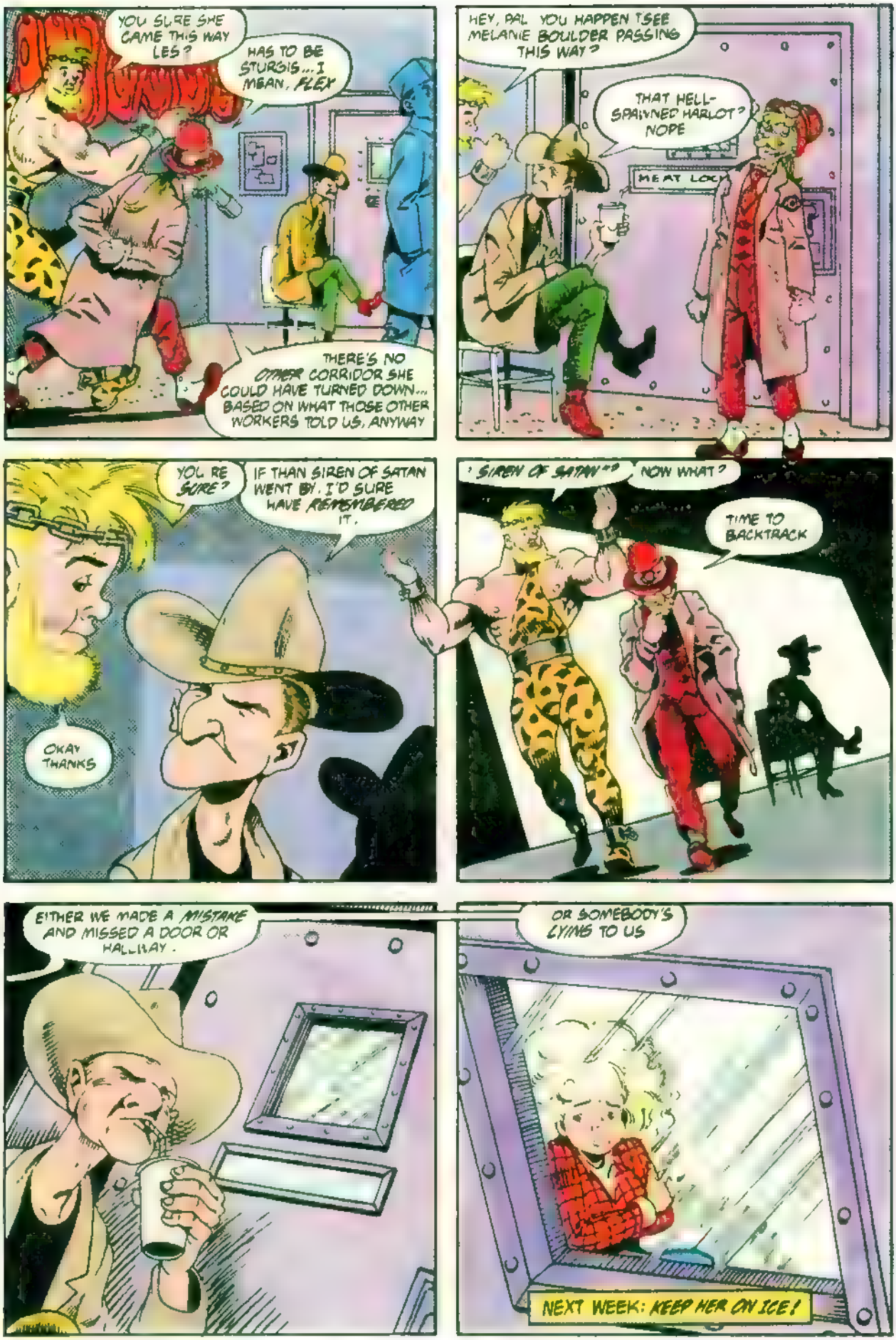
MAYBE THEY KNOW ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS CALL HERO HOTLINE.
I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED

OF COURSE, THAT KITTY IS GOING TO BE SO SCARED THAT THE SECOND I TRY TO GRAB IT, IT'S GOING TO HISS AND SPIT AND SCRATCH LIKE I WAS TRYING TO KILL IT.

DON'T SWEAT IT, STRETCH. I'LL GET THAT CAT DOWN

OKAY, HOTSHOT! LET'S SEE.
HOTSHOT? HMMMM...
5

BANG!
WHAT THE...?! ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR FREAKING MIND?!
MRONWWWN!
WHAP!
WELL, IT MOANED. DIDN'T IT?
HERE YA GO KIDS
THAT IS NOT ACCEPTED PROCEDURE FOR A SITUATION LIKE THIS, HOTSHOT! STOP BEING A WISE GUY!
GEEZ, MA WAS RIGHT. WHAT A SCURVYGG YOU ARE
ARE YOU WATCHING ALL THIS HARRY? DO YOU SEE WHAT YOU'VE HIRED?
REMINDS ME OF YOU WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG TOM COME ON BACK TO HQ
GREAT! LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE GONNA FIT RIGHT IN K'D
6

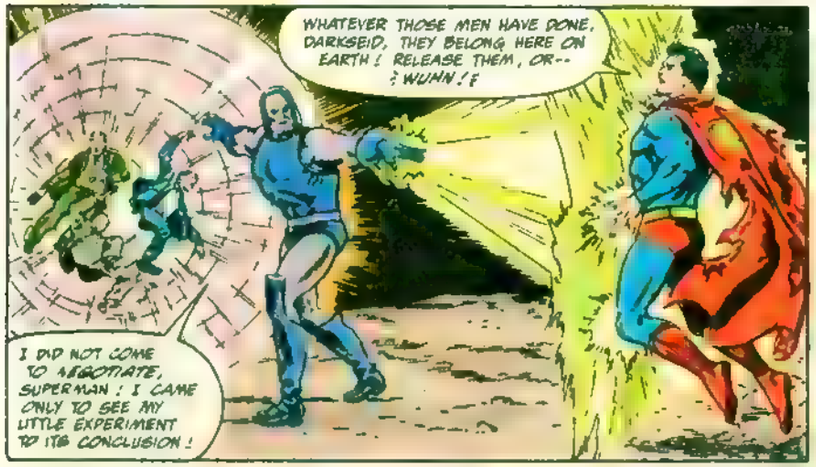

YOU SURE SHE CAME THIS WAY LES?
HAS TO BE STURGIS... I MEAN, FLEX
THERE'S NO OTHER CORRIDOR SHE COULD HAVE TURNED DOWN... BASED ON WHAT THOSE OTHER WORKERS TOLD US, ANYWAY
HEY, PAL YOU HAPPEN TSEE MELANIE BOULDER PASSING THIS WAY?
THAT HELL-SPAWNED HARLOT? NOPE
MEAT LOC
YOU RE SURE?
IF THAN SIREN OF SATAN WENT BY, I'D SURE HAVE REMEMBERED IT.
OKAY THANKS
"SIREN OF SATAN"?
NOW WHAT?
TIME TO BACKTRACK
EITHER WE MADE A MISTAKE AND MISSED A DOOR OR HALLWAY.
OR SOMEBODY'S LYING TO US
NEXT WEEK: KEEP HER ON ICE!

SUPERMAN

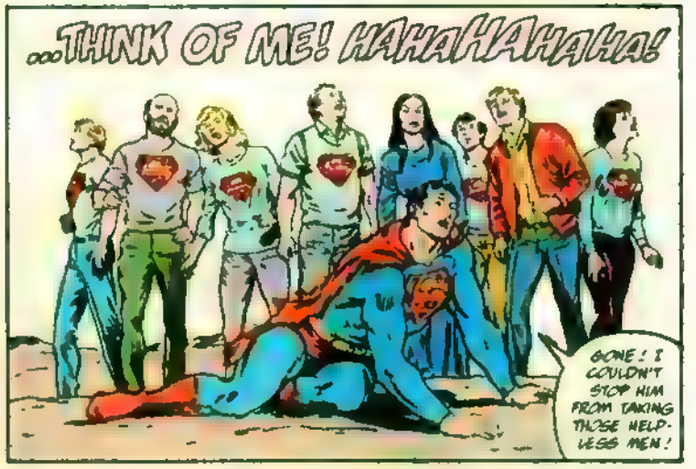
In the aftermath of a bizarre holy war, the power behind the conflict-- DARKSEID, lord of Apokolips-- has taken John Hodges and his fellow consortium leaders prisoner

"THE POWER WITHIN"

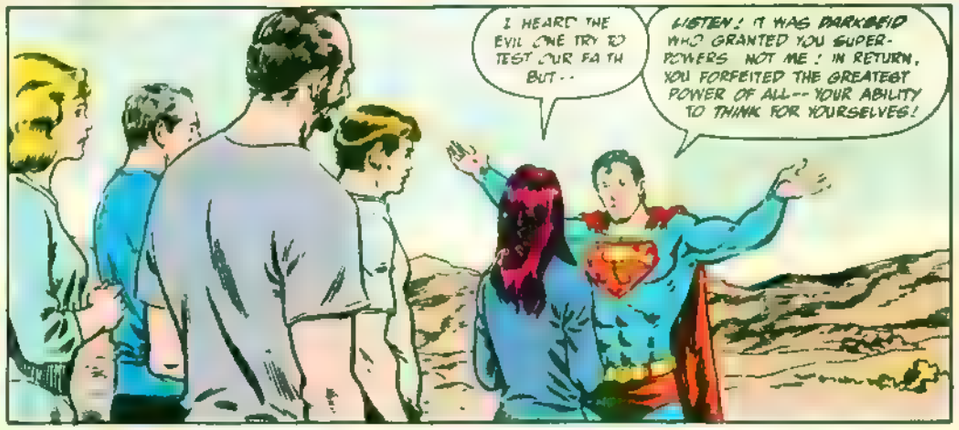
Mike Carlin - editor
Tom Ziuko - colorist
Bill Oakley - letterer
Murphy Anderson - inker
Curt Swan - penciller
Roger Stern - writer
-with special thanks to Tom Peyer!

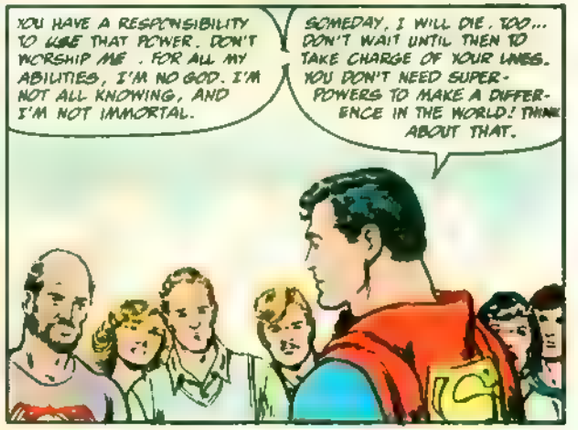

WHATEVER THOSE MEN HAVE DONE, DARKSEID, THEY BELONG HERE ON EARTH! RELEASE THEM, OR--
?WUNN!?
I DID NOT COME TO NEGOTIATE, SUPERMAN; I CAME ONLY TO SEE MY LITTLE EXPERIMENT TO ITS CONCLUSION!

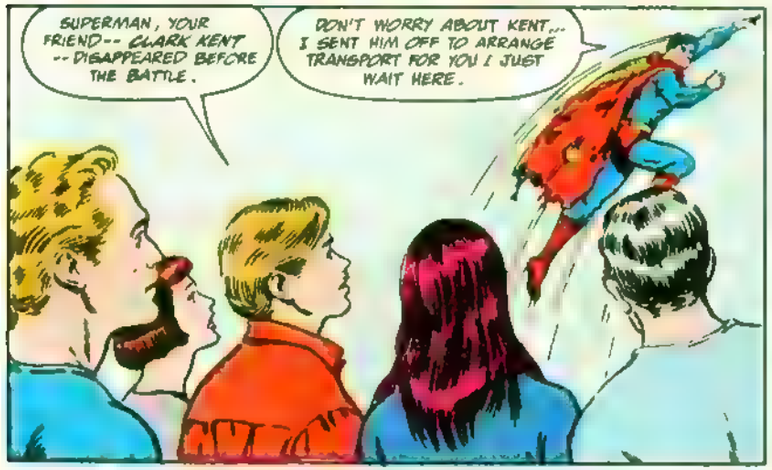
I WANTED THE PEOPLE WHO WORSHIPED YOU TO WITNESS TRUE POWER! AND I WANT YOU TO REMEMBER THIS: THE NEXT TIME YOU ARE BEDEVILED BY CIRCUMSTANCES BEYOND YOUR KEN..

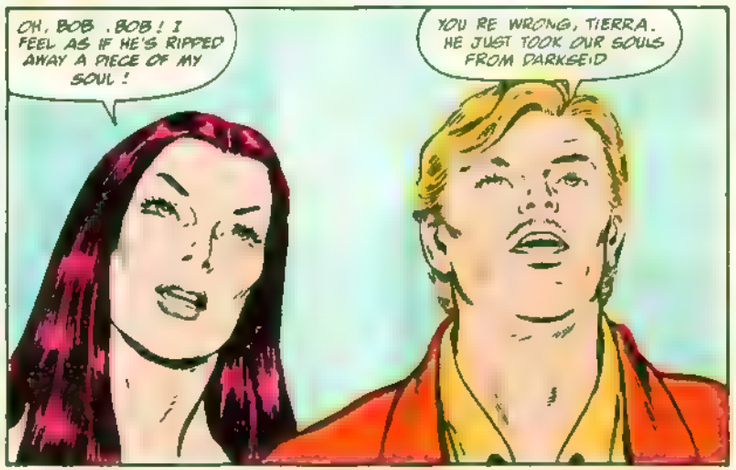


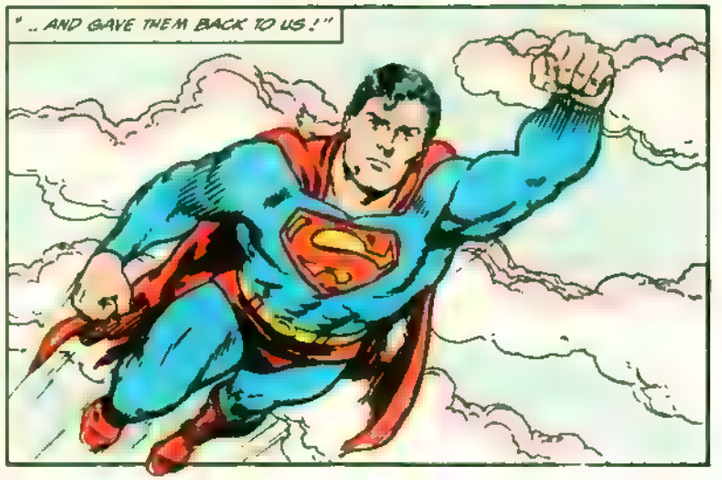
FORGIVE ME, HOLY ONE BUT THOSE "HELPLESS MEN" HAD HALF OF OUR FOLLOWING MURDERED! SURELY, THEY DESERVE THEIR FATE?
DON'T CALL ME "HOLY ONE!" DIDN'T YOU HEAR HIM?


I HEARD THE EVIL ONE TRY TO TEST OUR FAITH BUT--
LISTEN! IT WAS DARKSEID WHO GRANTED YOU SUPER-POWERS NOT ME! IN RETURN, YOU FORFEITED THE GREATEST POWER OF ALL-- YOUR ABILITY TO THINK FOR YOURSELVES!


YOU HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO USE THAT POWER. DON'T WORSHIP ME. FOR ALL MY ABILITIES, I'M NO GOD. I'M NOT ALL KNOWING, AND I'M NOT IMMORTAL.
SOMEDAY, I WILL DIE, TOO... DON'T WAIT UNTIL THEN TO TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR LIVES. YOU DON'T NEED SUPER-POWERS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD! THINK ABOUT THAT.


SUPERMAN, YOUR FRIEND-- CLARK KENT --DISAPPEARED BEFORE THE BATTLE.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT KENT... I SENT HIM OFF TO ARRANGE TRANSPORT FOR YOU! JUST WAIT HERE.





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666 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10103

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MATT RAGONE Circulation Director
PAT CALDON Controller

L-3541

Dear ACTION COMICS WEEKLY

I'd like to make a few comments on the letters of ACTION COMICS WEEKLY #627

First, why is everybody complaining about Superman not being in the center? I personally don't like seeing staples in the middle of my comics. I think that maybe something else should go there. Perhaps a record club ad!

Second, I agree with Coy J. Brown. You should call the new Showcase series star the original Captain Marvel instead of going with Shazam! I don't think the competition would have a leg to stand on if they tried to sue.

Third, George Stephens is right. Nightwing should be the star of his series, not Speedy. Tell Marv Wolfman to clean up his act or get out of town.

Speaking of Nightwing, I wish you could always give us a double dose of him. He is my favorite in this issue (next to the letters pages!!!). I don't know why I like him the best. I think it has to do with the way the action in his story goes. There isn't too much or too little. I know what I said about Speedy in the last paragraph, but maybe he's what helped make this comic great. It's nice seeing friends help each other out. I love the suspense at the end!

Green Lantern was handled well here, although I hope he remains the star. I mean, I have nothing against Captain Atom, but Green Lantern is the main character. I don't know how many (or how few) heroes will be in the next installment, but I wouldn't mind seeing the Justice League International some time. (I buy them every month!)

I don't know why I voted for the Secret Six next, but I do think they're beginning to get better. Maybe I'm just getting more used to them. This story is doing all right by me. I think I like them because I'm starting to get to know them. I also like them because I like team ups.

Black Canary is better in this current story than in her last. I'm going to reread the last few installments again to make sure I know what's going on, but even if I don't like them as well when I've re-read them, I'll probably still like this storyline better than her last. It's getting easier to follow this plot and the action's great, too! Also, I'm glad that some space in the magazine is going to the females. All we need now to make this mag better is a Vixen story! (Oh, how I wish Vixen was in the Justice League International instead of Suicide Squad!)

I like Superman, but I wish he had more pages. By the time I really get into the story, it's over. I wish your magazine had more pages, not just for him but for all of your stories. Maybe the comic should become ACTION COMICS DAILY! (except Sunday)

Even though you might not print this letter, I am happy that you do print letters from Kentuckians (namely Coy Brown).

Raymond D. Stablein
2394 Heatherway Drive
Lexington, KY 40503

Hey, look. Why should we want to even think *about doing something that might prompt a lawsuit from the good folks at Marvel Comics? After all, this is a small field, and we should all be friends.*

. . . . .

Dear ACTION,

Word at my local comics shop has it that ACTION will be going back to monthly, and will stop being an anthology. Also, some of the features will be getting their own monthly titles. I think this is a mistake. Maybe sales prove me wrong, but I enjoy most of the series because they are weekly and in an anthology. I don't know if I'd buy any of the features as monthly titles. Why? The eight (or seven) page weekly format is what has hooked me. I don't mind if some of the features get their own titles. In fact, that's what happens with the Showcase stories. A lot of readers wrote to ask for more than two pages of Superman, but he already has two titles that feature full length stories. So if ACTION is to return to monthly, I hope you start up a new weekly anthology. If my information is wrong, you know at least one reader cares.

Now for votes and comments on ACTION COMICS WEEKLY #627 (briefly, this time):

1) Secret Six—This is a very consistent series. If it were in a monthly format I don't know if it'd work, but it works here.

2) Green Lantern—This edged out chapter one of Nightwing's tale due to the appearance of one of my favorite characters—Captain Atom. It also had a good sense of humor.

3) Nightwing, chapter one—I was a big fan of Dick Grayson when he was Robin, and the presence of Speedy is great. Normally I don't like kid sidekicks, but you have developed both into independent characters. I'd like to see more of both away from the Titans.

4) Nightwing, chapter two—Second to chapter one only because the first chapter was more concise and better set up. The art looks rushed.

5) Superman—I don't read his other titles with any regularity. This format works and this issue's installment presents an interesting problem for Clark Kent.

6) Black Canary—I hate to be the one to tell you, but there's this woman pretending to be Dinah "Black Canary" Lance in your pages. Well, she's not fooling me, and I don't think she's fooling anybody. The art is poor, the story is disjointed, and the characterization horrendous. Maybe I had too high expectations for one of my favorite females in comics.

Stephen Cade
339 12 Avenue N.W.
Calgary, Alberta

. . . . .

Dear Mrs. Kesel,

On ACTION #627,

1. Nightwing—WOW! A cover by Gil Kane and 16 pages of Dick Grayson and his sidekick Speedy. I always think of Alka Seltzer when I see Speedy, he gives me a stomach ache, always talking about needing six months vacation and moaning about his "precious" daughter that he foists on the first Mrs. Sebastian that wanders by ... he should've stayed outta the fight and protected his "precious." Grayson has fought crime solo many times and can handle any crisis. Nightwing needs no Speedy savior. Even Black Canary is allowed out without a bodyguard and she's a wittle gurl! Let's see a Grayson solo series!

Lovely close-up of blue-eyed Grayson on the splash page! Yum yum yum.

Welcome to Cherie Wilkerson as colorist, whatever that is.

2. Nightwing—Nice picture of Speedy Alka Seltzer on page nine, even if he should've been home baby sitting. And another lovely pic of Richard G. on page ten, panel three. As an artist, I appreciated the well drawn panels in the first half of the story. The last five pages had a half hearted look, as if the deadline was looming and Tom Mandrake didn't do a good job on the art.

Generally, I dug it! Now I'm really showing my age (sigh!)

3. Black Canary—The art was very

uneven and awkward Perhaps a more complete penciller is needed, or get Randy DuBurke to be more consistent and less "arty" in his work Makes the story hard to follow

4 I like the way the Secret Six gang have costumes reminiscent of Nightwing!

5 Nice to see Romeo s on Green Lantern and Captain Atom

6 Supermacho—Even though I love Swan and Anderson, two pages is such a teeny bit, I can't follow whazz happenin'

Once again, the cover of ACTION COMICS WEEKLY #627 was primo stuff. Really nice to see Gil Kane doing Grayson again! You might remind the colorist that Nightwing has violet-blue eyes, not white like on the cover

Mercy
P O Box 1028
New York, NY 10028

You a friend of Roy Orbison's?

. . . . .

Dear Mike and Brian,

Is it me, or did something go wrong in ACTION COMICS WEEKLY #627? Two chapters of Nightwing's story in the same issue? I sense a glitch in production

I also hear that Green Lantern and Superman aren't going to be in the crossover anymore, as they're going back to their own books with the end of ACTION as a weekly book I suppose that means that the experiment's failed, if true At least the better or more popular features are gaining their own titles or minis (Superman, Green Lantern, Blackhawk, Catwoman) But what happens to the other features? Where do Wild Dog and Deadman go from here? Will Black Canary—a feature I've liked in opposition to everyone else, it seems—revert to supporting feature status in GREEN ARROW? Have we seen the last of the Secret Six for another decade? Is there any point in still sending in votes? Anyway, here are some votes on ACTION COMICS WEEKLY #627

First—Gil Kane's cover Vintage material, infinitely better than his rush job on the early Green Lantern stories in this book, and nicely capturing Dick Grayson's determination

Second—Black Canary I remain convinced this strip has suffered from its unconventionality True, DuBurke has his teething problems, but some of the imagery remains wonderfully vivid And I suppose Sharon s deliberately obscure strips aren t what everyone expects But Dinah fully deserves her own feature, somewhere

Third—Green Lantern The settled team is finally giving Hal some consistently good stories They'll be good on the new book if they're producing it

Fourth—Nightwing, and the second half was better than the first But this is much, much better than the previous Nightwing feature, mainly because the art is decent I hope Tom has a regular assignment somewhere There are still a few too many British/Irish caricatures thrown in, but at least someone's done some research into the country and its culture

Fifth—Secret Six—but again, a good episode, much less cluttered than usual I still have no idea who Mockingbird is or whether the original group is (I hope) still alive

Sixth—Superman Roll on Perez

Malcolm Bourne
6 Craigwell Road
Prestwich
Manchester M25 8EF
ENGLAND

Clearly, certain aspects of ACW didn't work, Malcolm, but with spin-offs involving Blackhawk, Green Lantern, Wild Dog, Deadman, and possibly Speedy, Nightwing, and The Demon (mini-series for each are in the discussion stage), and with a new anthology waiting in the wings, we're hard pressed to call this project a failure. You don't get anywhere playing it safe all the time

As for Black Canary, well, she'll continue to play an important role in our GREEN ARROW monthly (and semi monthly this summer) ... and we're setting up plotlines all over the place for a Green Arrow/Black Canary/Speedy reunion

. . . . .

ACTION COMICS WEEKLY,

Captain Atom's tenure in the Justice League International seems to have adversely affected his common sense I was thinking, "why him?" but I suppose "why not him?" is more appropriate Of all your heroes, Captain Atom is probably the only one who would react like he did Many would have been hurt after the first greeting Of those who could take the punishment, most would have tried a different approach from charging right back in there

Of the few who would have found themselves in the same position as Captain Atom when Green Lantern arrived, all, except possibly Guy Gardner, would have listened and sat tight Not proud, arrogant, inexperienced Captain Atom. Good choice!

As ever, I enjoyed the Secret Six I wasn't around for the originals but I am a bit of a traditionalist, and I hope you're not about to reveal Mockingbird's identity to us

If I have a complaint about Black Canary, it's simply that I don't like all the blackness It makes what's going on harder to define. Other than that, I like it

Of all the DC characters, few are obsessively concerned with their secret identities, Dick Grayson being one of them. Why would he switch to his costume just to follow some suspicious looking characters to the vehicle area of a ferry boat that probably only has two young American males on board? Other than that, chapter one was okay

But with the beginning of chapter two, already I'm confused Speedy was on a boat with at least four policemen I note two being shot Then he pulls Nightwing on board They dive off, but there are only two heads in the boat What'd they do with the policemen? It's "little" lapses like this that distract from the whole story

I thought so little of both Nightwing chapters that I considered placing Superman fourth, but why break a 26 week streak?

Ray Rizer
422 Oak
Elwood, KS 66024 0026

. . . . .

NEXT WEEK The continuing adventures of all our heroes, and a striking Phantom Lady cover by Kevin Nowlan Don't miss it!

And keep an eye out for the debut of our new BLACKHAWK monthly, on sale in five weeks!

We ll see you in seven!

—Mike Gold

BOY, YOU DID IT THIS TIME, PAL! THE BOSS'S DAUGHTER. EVERY TIME YOU SEE HER, YOU HAVE TO FORCE YOUR EYES BACK IN. AND SHE BARELY KNOWS YOU EXIST.
ONLY TWO THINGS GIVE ME THAT SPECIAL RUSH... SEEING THE CAPITOL AT NIGHT AND...
OOFF!...DEE TYLER?
SHHH... I'M IN DISGUISE! NO TIME TO EXPLAIN!
DISGUISE, MY EYE! IF YOUR FATHER SAW YOU LIKE THIS...
UH-OH! TOO LATE!
MY GOD! THAT'S THE VICE PRESIDENT... AND... THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE!
HEY LADY, WHAT ABOUT THE FARE?
HOLY HEAVEN, WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?
PHANTOM LADY
LEN STRAZEWSKI writer
CHUCK AUSTEN penciller
GARY MARTIN inker
COSTANZA letterer
WHITMORE colorist
MARK WAID editor
TOAST of the CAPITOL

THOSE WEAPONS HAVEN'T EVEN BEEN RELEASED FROM TESTING YET! AND THAT'S THE EXPERIMENTAL LAVITANK ARMOR! DEE, HOW DID THEY...
YOUR FAVORITE ARMS RING IS STILL IN BUSINESS, ROGER BIG BUSINESS! AND STOP USING MY NAME... CALL ME...
TAXI
PHANTOM LADY! I HAD YA IN MY CAB IN THE FORTIES, WHEN I WAS JUST A KID!
CAN YOU GET THE POLICE ON YOUR CAR RADIO?
I GUESS...
TAXI
FORGET IT! THERE'S NO TIME, AND THEY LL JUST MAKE IT MORE COMPLICATED GET READY ROGER WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE THEM OURSELVES
ARE YOU NUTS? WE'RE OUT IN THE OPEN WITH NO COVER, AND THOSE WEAPONS CAN CUT US IN HALF. I VE SEEN WHAT THEY CAN DO!
ONLY IF THEY HI US! AND HOLOGRAMS WON T MAKE IT EASY FOR THEM.
LET'S GO!
TAXI
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT!
2

WHAT?!
ABID, WHERE DID THEY COME FROM?
I DON'T KNOW, BUT START SHOOTING!

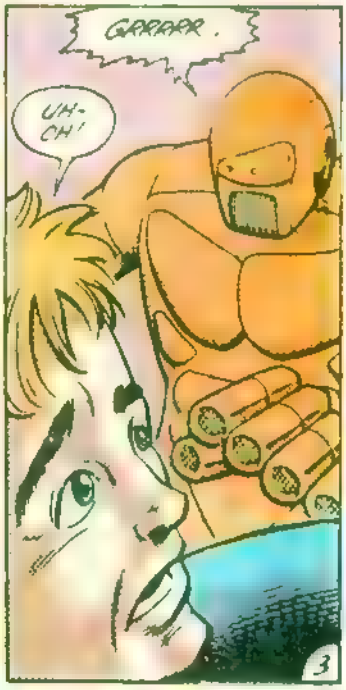
RUN FOR IT, GENTLEMEN!
OW!
DIE, YANKEE DEVILS!
KILL THEM!

UGH!

I NEVER FEEL COMFORTABLE AROUND GUNS, SO PLEASE DON'T POINT!

ROGER, GET AWAY! HE'S GOING TO SHOOT!

DIE, PIG!
WATCH--
YAAAHHH!
OH, GOD!


GRRRRR.
UH-OH!

SWOOSH
CLANK
C'MON, DROID, YOU TIN CAN!
BOOM BOOM
OHHH!
WHAT ARE THEY DOING? WHAT'S HAPPENING?
TAKE MY CAB! GET OUT OF HERE!
I'LL TAKE THESE TWO!
STUPID OLD MAN!
OOOF!
FORGET HIM! WE'VE LOST THE HOSTAGES LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

LET HER GO, OR.. UHHHHH!
WATCH THOSE HANDS, RUST BUCKET!
NO MORE JOKING.
CRUSH YOU!
YEOW!
UGH... MAYBE NOT!
SSSSS
GARRRGH!
WHEW... GOT 'IM!
DEE, ARE YOU OKAY?
DO I LOOK OKAY? HUH?
YOU LOOK GREAT!
5

HEY, THESE GUYS ARE GETTING AWAY!
WAIT A SEC...MAYBE I CAN.
WHAT THE HELL.!
TURN! TURN!
SCREEECH
SCRAPE
BAM!
WHAT WAS THAT?
WELL, WHATEVER IT WAS, IT SURE LOOKED REAL!
A HOLOGRAM! NOW YOU SEE IT, NOW YOU DON'T! THEY SAW IT

NO SUDDEN MOVES, CREEP!
DAMN GUERREHART! HE CHEATED ME! HE TOLD ME I WOULD BE INVULNERABLE! DAMN LES MILLE YEUX!
GUERREHART! I KNEW THAT YOU WAS CROOKED I KNEW IT!
ME TOO SUGAR! BUT NOW--
--NOW DO WE GET AWAY WITH WHAT WE KNOW DAD?
BELLE OF THE BALL

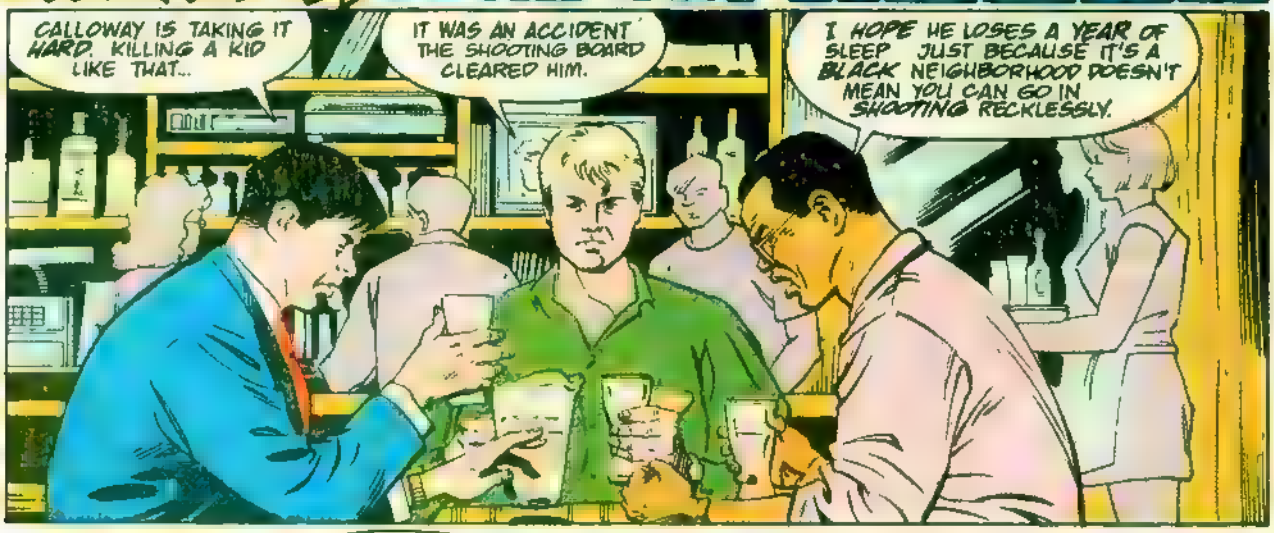
WILD DOG™

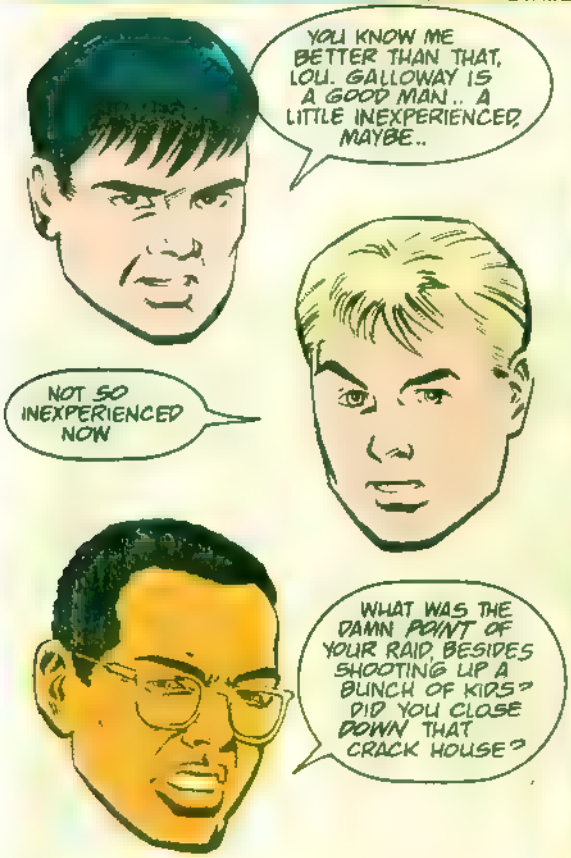
CRACK UP

WRITER CO-CREATORS PENCILLER
MAX ALLAN COLLINS TERRY BEATTY
INKER COLORIST
JOHN NYBERG CARL GAFFORD
LETTERER EDITOR
TIM HARKINS BRIAN AUGUSTYN

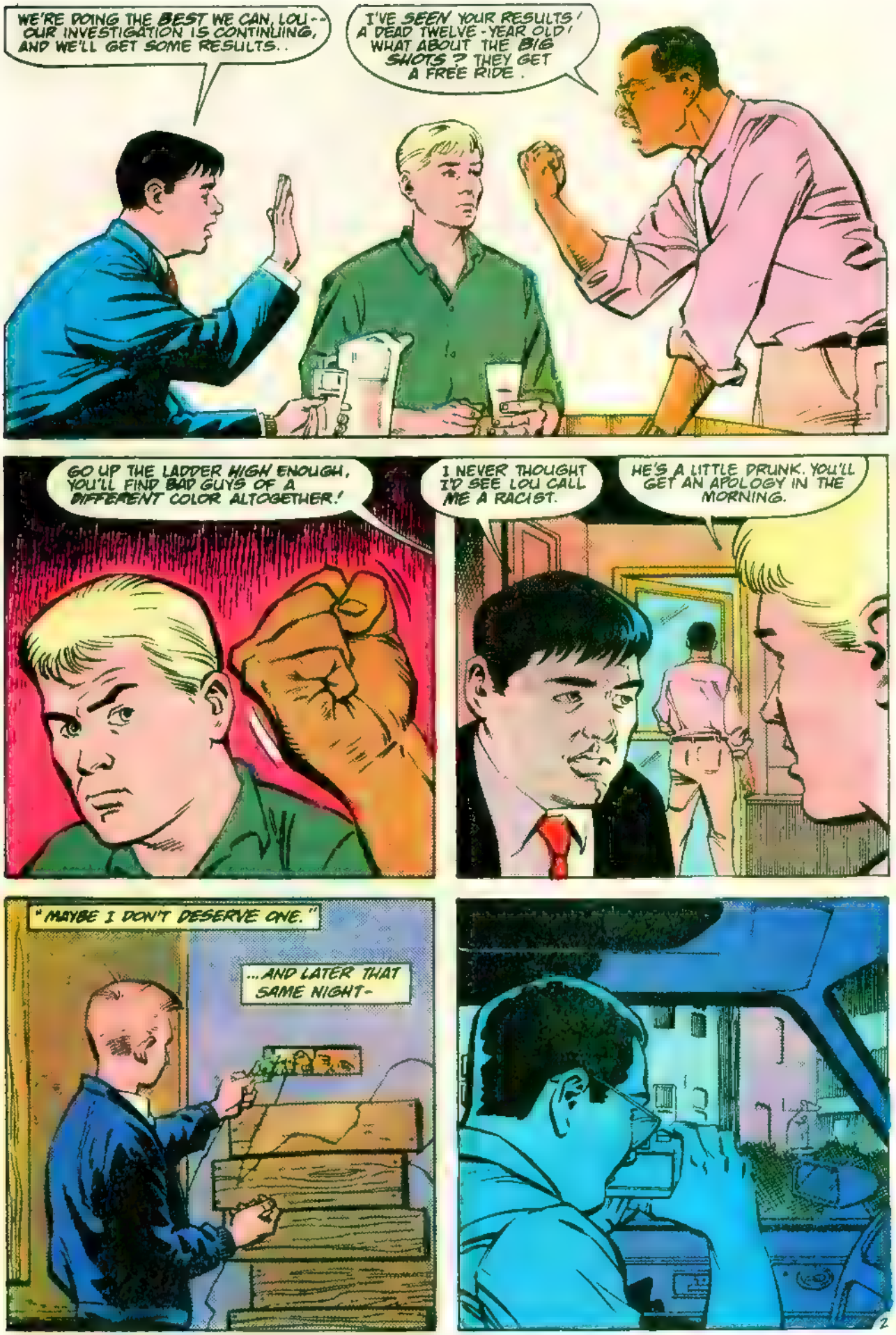
CHAPTER THREE:

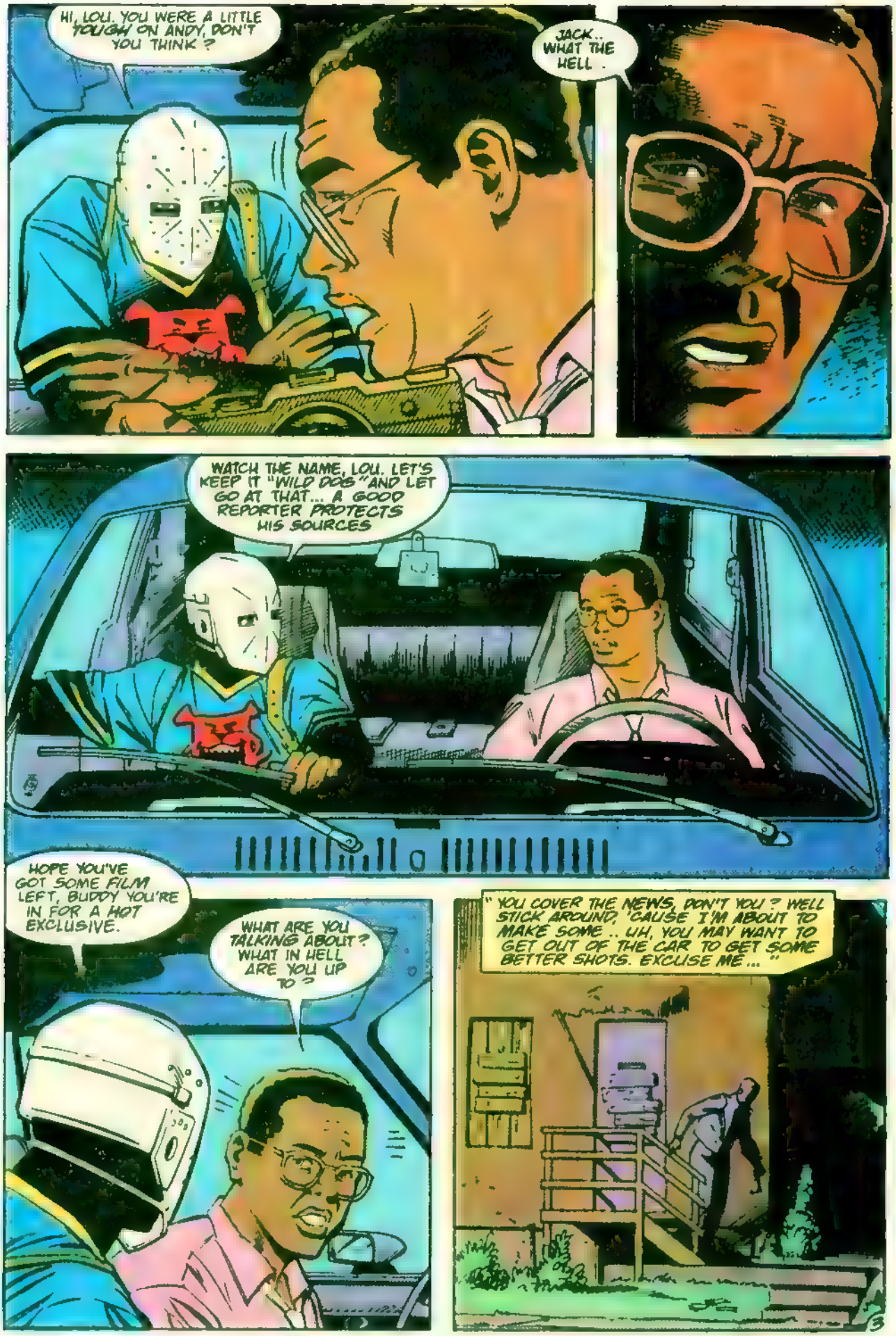
BLOWING DOWN THE HOUSE


CALLOWAY IS TAKING IT HARD. KILLING A KID LIKE THAT..
IT WAS AN ACCIDENT THE SHOOTING BOARD CLEARED HIM.
I HOPE HE LOSES A YEAR OF SLEEP JUST BECAUSE IT'S A BLACK NEIGHBORHOOD DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN GO IN SHOOTING RECKLESSLY.


YOU KNOW ME BETTER THAN THAT, LOU. GALLOWAY IS A GOOD MAN.. A LITTLE INEXPERIENCED, MAYBE..
NOT SO INEXPERIENCED NOW
WHAT WAS THE DAMN POINT OF YOUR RAID BESIDES SHOOTING UP A BUNCH OF KIDS? DID YOU CLOSE DOWN THAT CRACK HOUSE?

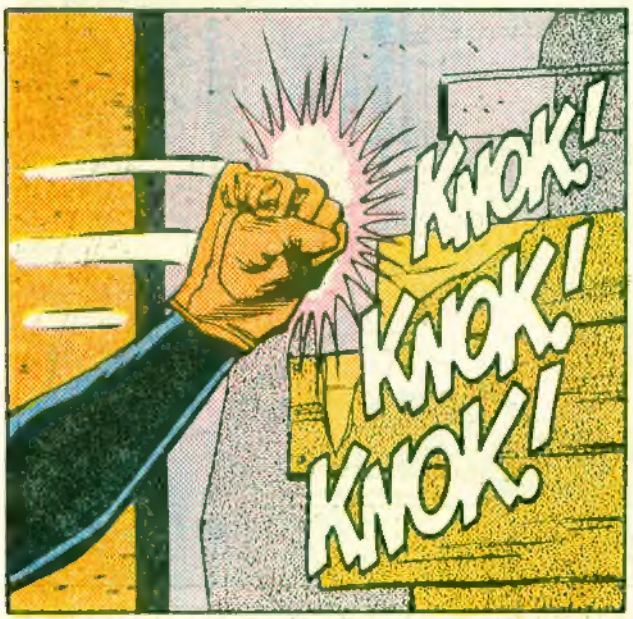
I DON'T KNOW... IT'S A CONDEMNED PROPERTY.. WE MOVE ONE GROUP OUT, ANOTHER CAN MOVE IN EASY ENOUGH..
SO THE BOTTOM LINE IS: THE DEALERS ARE STILL IN BUSINESS, AND ONE INNOCENT KID'S DEAD. TERRIFIC.

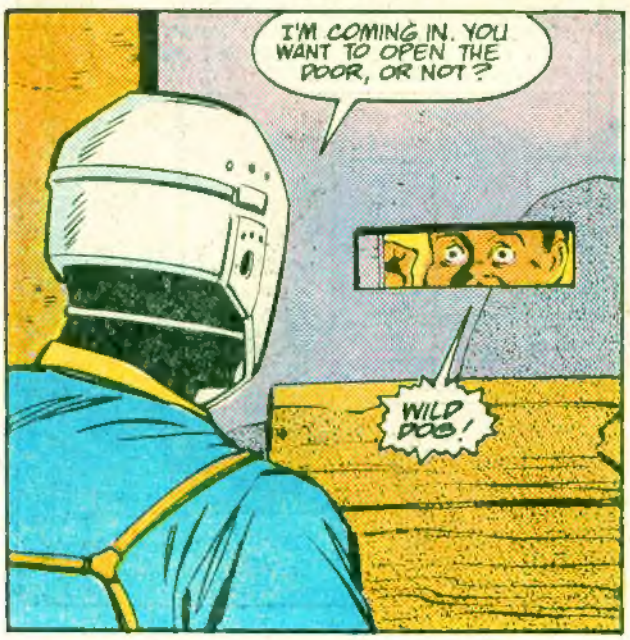

WE'RE DOING THE BEST WE CAN, LOU-- OUR INVESTIGATION IS CONTINUING, AND WE'LL GET SOME RESULTS..
I'VE SEEN YOUR RESULTS! A DEAD TWELVE-YEAR OLD! WHAT ABOUT THE BIG SHOTS? THEY GET A FREE RIDE.
GO UP THE LADDER HIGH ENOUGH, YOU'LL FIND BAD GUYS OF A DIFFERENT COLOR ALTOGETHER!
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE LOU CALL ME A RACIST.
HE'S A LITTLE DRUNK. YOU'LL GET AN APOLOGY IN THE MORNING.
"MAYBE I DON'T DESERVE ONE."
...AND LATER THAT SAME NIGHT-


HI, LOU. YOU WERE A LITTLE TOUGH ON ANDY, DON'T YOU THINK ?
JACK.. WHAT THE HELL .
WATCH THE NAME, LOU. LET'S KEEP IT "WILD DOG" AND LET GO AT THAT... A GOOD REPORTER PROTECTS HIS SOURCES
HOPE YOU'VE GOT SOME FILM LEFT, BUDDY YOU'RE IN FOR A HOT EXCLUSIVE.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WHAT IN HELL ARE YOU UP TO ?
" YOU COVER THE NEWS, DON'T YOU ? WELL STICK AROUND, 'CAUSE I'M ABOUT TO MAKE SOME .. UH, YOU MAY WANT TO GET OUT OF THE CAR TO GET SOME BETTER SHOTS. EXCUSE ME ... "

TO CLIMB ANY LADDER, YOU GOT TO START AT THE BOTTOM RUNG...
JEEP
RIVER

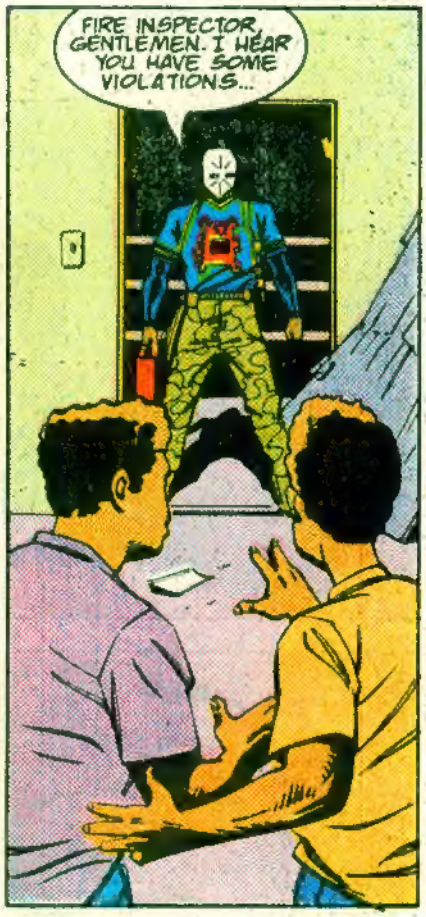
AND THIS IS THE BOTTOM, ALL RIGHT.
GASOLINE


KNOK!
KNOK!
KNOK!


I'M COMING IN. YOU WANT TO OPEN THE DOOR, OR NOT?
WILD DOG!

SLAM!
BE THAT WAY.

KRUNCH!!!
GASOLINE


FIRE INSPECTOR, GENTLEMEN. I HEAR YOU HAVE SOME VIOLATIONS...

GASOLINE

JUST AS I SUSPECTED THIS PLACE IS A FIRE HAZARD... SAY, WHO DO YOU FELLAS WORK FOR, ANYWAY?
WILLIE!
WILLIE WALLACE! HE'S THE BIGGEST CRACK DEALER IN THE CITIES!
THANKS.
WHAT'S HAPPENIN' ... ?
CLEAR OUT! THE MAN'S A CRAZY MAN, MAN!

FIRE INSPECTOR! COMING THROUGH...
FIRE INSPECTOR, SON.
SOLINE
SOLINE
I WOULDN'T SHOOT THAT GUN. MIGHT SPARK SOMETHING.
SMOKING'S HAZARDOUS TO YOUR HEALTH, Y'KNOW...
NEXT WEEK: "RUNG BY RUNG"